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THE

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report.)

SEVENTH SESSION.

1922.

VOLUME VII No. 5.

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GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Lawrence John Lumley Dundas, Earl of Ronaldshay, G.C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Vice-President, in charge of the following portfolios:—

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2. Political
3. Police.
4. Ecclesiastical
5. European Education

The Hon'ble Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M. Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, in charge of the following portfolios

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2. Land Acquisition
3. Forests
4. Irrigation
5. Excluded areas

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr, C.S.I., C.I.E., in charge of the following portfolios:—

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2. Separate Revenue.
3. Commerce and reserved Industrial subjects
4. Marine

The Hon'ble Sir Abdur-Rahim, Kt., in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Judicial.
2. Jails.
3. Emigration.
4. Immigration
5. Jurisdiction.

MINISTERS.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA, Kt., in charge of the following portfolios:—

Local Self-Government and Public Health.

The Hon'ble Mr. PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER, C.I.E., in charge of the following portfolio:—

Education.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., in charge of the following portfolios:—

Agriculture and Public Works.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT.

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir SYED SHAMS-UL-HUDA, K.C.I.E.

DEPUTY-PRESIDENT.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY.

Secretary to the Council—C. TINDALL, C.I.E., I.C.S.

Assistant Secretary to the Council—A. M. HUTCHINSON.

Additional Assistant Secretary to the Council—K. N. MAJUMDAR

Registrar to the Council—J. W. McKAY.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur [Dacca City (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin. [Pabna (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin. [Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin. [Jessore South (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin. [Dinajpur (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Mr. M. [Faridpur South (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar. [Noakhali (Muhammadan).]
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood. [24-Parganas Municipal North (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan. [Nadia (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim. [24-Parganas Rural (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Munshi Amir. [Chittagong (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Munshi Ayub. [Chittagong (Muhammadan).]
Aly, Maulvi Saiyid Hossain. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed. [Dacca East Rural (Muhammadan).]

B

Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath. [Minister, 24-Parganas Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra. [Birbhum (Non-Muhammadan).]
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan. [Rangpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Barton, Mr. H. (Anglo-Indian).
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath. [Calcutta North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra. (Nominated Non-Official—Labouring Classes.)
Biss, Mr. E. E. (Nominated Official.)
Bompas, Mr. C. H. (Nominated Official.)
Bose, Mr. S. M. [Mymensingh East (Non-Muhammadan).]

C

Carey, Mr. W. L. (Indian Mining Association.)
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra. [Noakhali (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan. [Rajshahi (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath. [Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman. [Bogra (Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad. [Malda *cum* Jalpaiguri (Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath. [24-Parganas Rural North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Sir Asutosh. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur. [Minister, Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
Cohen, Mr. D. J. [Calcutta South Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Currie, Mr. W. C. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

D

Das, Babu Bhismadev. (Nominated Non-official—Depressed Classes.)
Das, Mr. S. R. [Calcutta North-West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra. [Bakarganj North (Non-Muhammadan).]
De, Babu Fanindralal. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
deLisle, Mr. J. A. [Dacca and Chittagong (European).]
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal. [Dacca City (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder. [Bankura East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan. [Calcutta North Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan. [Chittagong (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan. [Tippera (Non-Muhammadan).]
Duval, Mr. H. P. (Nominated Official.)

F

Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]
French, Mr. F. C. (Nominated Official.)

G

Ghatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani. [Malda (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghose, Mr. D. C. [24-Parganas Rural South (Non-Muhammadan).]

Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder. (Calcutta University.)
Goode, Mr. S. W. (Nominated Official.)
Gupta, Mr. J. N. (Nominated Official.)

H

Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
Hindley, Lt.-Col. C. D. M. (Nominated Official.)
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S. (Nominated Official.)
Huntingford, Mr. G. T. (Nominated Official.)
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul. [Murshidabad (Muhammadan).]
Hussain, Maulvi Md. Madassur. [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan).]

J

James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]

K

Karim, Maulvi Abdul. [Faridpur North (Muhammadan).]
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. (Member, Executive Council.)
Kesteven, Sir Charles Henry. (Expert Member.)
Khaitan, Babu Devi Prosad. (Nominated Non-Official.)
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal. [Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din. [Rangpur East (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Md. Ershad Ali. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]

L

Lang, Mr. J. (Nominated Official.)
Larmour, Mr. F. A. (Calcutta Trades Association.)
Law, Raja Reshee Case. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

M

Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble. (Member, Executive Council.)
Makramali, Munshi. [Noakhali (Muhammadan).]
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath. [Calcutta South (Non-Muhammadan).]

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the Seventh Session.)

VOLUME VII—No. 5.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 18th March, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 85 nominated and elected members.

Oath.

The following member took an oath of allegiance to the Crown:—
Mr. G. L. COLVIN, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Starred Question

(to which oral answer was given).

Unemployment among the poorer classes.

*XXXIV. **Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce aware of the question of unemployment among the poorer classes of the people?

(*b*) *Are the Government considering the desirability of taking some practical steps to fix standard prices of articles of necessaries for the poorer classes of the people?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): (*a*) Government are not aware of any exceptional degree of unemployment among the poorer classes.

(*b*) No. In present conditions action on the lines proposed is not considered necessary.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Separate kitchens for Hindu and Muhammadan prisoners in jails.

242. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether there are separate kitchens for Hindu and Muhammadan prisoners in the jails of Bengal?

(*b*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of providing separate kitchens?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

"Post mortem" examination of Muhammadan prisoners.

243. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the dead bodies of all the prisoners who die in jail hospitals from natural causes, such as, malarial fever, dysentery, phthisis, and other diseases, are subjected to a *post mortem* examination by the medical officer of the jail?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of putting a stop to this practice?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) and (*b*) The rule was that in the event of death of a prisoner, a *post mortem* examination was to be made. It is proposed to change the rule so as to require such examination only in cases where death is suspected to have been due to other than natural causes.

Appointment of Muhammadan officer in the Manufacturing Department of the Central Jail.

244. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) aware that there is no Muhammadan officer in the Alipore Central Jail Manufacturing Department?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing some Muhammadans in that Department?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) There are 26 Muhammadan officers in the Manufacturing Department of the Alipore General Jail.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Number of Muhammadan Assistants in the office of the Inspector-General of Prisons.

245. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state the number of Muhammadan assistant clerks in the office of the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: Two.

List of indigenous industries carried on in Bengal.

246. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether any list has been prepared showing the indigenous industries carried on in each district of Bengal?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay a copy of such a list on the table?

(*c*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of preparing such a list and laying the same on the table?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) and (*b*) No such list has been prepared yet.

(*c*) An industrial survey of the province is being carried out and on its completion Government will be able to furnish the information required.

Rearrangement of the jurisdiction of certain police-stations in Dacca.

247. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether the village Naupara (Dakshincharigaon) is within the police-station of Lauhajanj in the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the said village Naupara is to the south of police-station Serajdikha and to the north of police-station Lauhajanj and is nearer to Serajdikha than to Lauhajanj?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the villages Subachani, etc., to the north of Naupara are within the police-station Serajdikha, while Naupara has been placed within the police-station Lauhajanj?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of rearranging the areas of the above two thanas in such a way as to place the villages of Naupara and others nearer to Serajdikha, within the police-station of Serajdikha?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The village Subachani is to the east of Naupara and is in the jurisdiction of Tangibari police-station in the district of Dacca, and not in the jurisdiction of Serajdikha police-station.

(*d*) No.

Disputes as to the boundary of the Reserved Forest portion of the Khulna Sundarbans.

248. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) aware that there are numerous disputes as to the boundary of the Reserved forest portion of the Sundarbans area in the district of Khulna?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons why the Sundarbans Reserved Forest area has been excluded from the present settlement operations in Khulna?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) No.

(*b*) The reserved forest was excluded because there is nothing in it which could be recorded under section 102 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. The boundaries between the reserved forest and all lands appertaining to permanently or temporary settled estates will, however, be investigated and mapped by the Settlement Officer and disputes decided under the Survey Act.

Constitution of a Conciliation Board in connection with the strike of workmen.

249. Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to constitute a Conciliation Board in connection with the strike of workmen engaged on services of public utility?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: The attention of the member is invited to Resolution No. 3268-Com., dated the 29th August, 1921, constituting a conciliation panel to deal with disputes affecting public utility services in Calcutta and its neigbourhood. Since the constitution of the panel, no necessity has arisen for invoking the services of its members.

The Budget of the Government of Bengal, 1922-23.

Supplementary Demands for Grants.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): We shall now take up the supplementary demands for grants.

16.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works (financed from ordinary revenues).

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I move that a sum of Rs. 66,000 be granted under the head "Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works, etc."

The sanctioned voted estimate under this head for the current year 1921-22 is Rs. 3,76,000. But the revised estimate amounts to Rs. 4,42,000. This head deals with the Capital expenditure on the Hijli Tidal, Midnapore, Calcutta and Eastern and Madaripur Bil Canals. The excess of the revised estimate, *viz.*, Rs. 66,000, is due to greater provision being required during the year for widening and deepening the Madaripur Bil Canal.

The Council is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs. 66,000 under this head. This will be met from savings in other Irrigation heads.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

41.—Civil Works.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): I move that a sum of Rs. 21,900 be transferred from the grant of Rs. 1,00,000 for petty local works of improvements placed at the disposal of Commissioners of Divisions under "41.—Civil Works" to the heads noted below:—

	Rs.
31.—Education	10,361
32.—Medical ...	11,489
37.—Miscellaneous departments ...	50
	Rs. 21,900

The Council, last year, sanctioned the sum of rupees one lakh under the head "Civil Works" to be allotted by Commissioners to local works of improvement. As a rule, most of this is spent under the head "Civil Works," but some of it goes to other improvements, and what we are asking the Council to do now is to sanction the reappropriation of this amount from this grant of Rs. 1,00,000 for petty local works to the Educational, Medical and Miscellaneous heads.

The motion was put and agreed to.

55.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works (not charged to revenues).

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I move that a sum of Rs. 13,51,000 be granted under the above head on account of part payment of the cost of the three dredgers *Ronaldshay*, *Cowley*, and *Burdwan*, ordered from England.

Under this head the Council voted a sum of Rs. 69,02,000 principally on account of the three dredgers ordered from England. The High Commissioner has now reported that the amount payable for the dredgers in the current year will be much more than was originally estimated and necessary provision has been made for increased payment. This excess will be met by further drawal from provincial balances for which an application has been made to the Government of India.

At the Council meeting of March, 1921, when a demand of Rs. 69,02,000 was made under this head it was explained—

(*a*) that owing to the exchange of to-day the estimate on dredgers alone would be Rs. 106 lakhs even at the calculation of 1*s.* 6*d.* to the rupee or if it were calculated at 1*s.* 4*d.* or less it would naturally become greater;

(*b*) that the amount required for the dredgers is a liability which the Government of Bengal have to meet, for which a contract has been entered into and for which money has to be found out; and

(*c*) that there is no need to apprehend that this money which is being invested in dredgers will be lost because there are many schemes on which these dredgers could be utilised even if the Grand Trunk Canal is abandoned.

The Council is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs. 13,51,000 under this head This amount has been taken into account in the revised estimate for the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Demands for Grants.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: We shall now begin with the demands for grants. I would like to refer to the circular from the Legislative Department which has been issued to members, in which time has been fixed for discussing—Land Revenue, 2 hours; Excise, 2 hours; and so on. I hope members will try to finish their speeches in as short a time as possible, because I will not be able to allow them more time than that laid down by His Excellency the Governor.

5.—Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I move that a sum of Rs. 27,36,000 be granted for expenditure under the head " 5.—Land Revenue."

I do not propose to make any lengthy statement to-day, for I only wish to say a few words in connection with Survey and Settlement.

It has already been explained in the Financial Statement why there has been a saving under Survey and Settlement in the revised budget estimates for this year, and why a large reduction is proposed in the next year's budget also. Provision was made at the beginning of the year for an expenditure of Rs. 29 lakhs, but as soon as the results of the mission to Simla in September last came to be known, the pruning-knife was at once most unsparingly applied. A band of nearly 60 enthusiastic young men, most of them graduates, who were receiving settlement training at Jessore, in order to qualify themselves for the work which they were expected to undertake after the *Pujas*, were immediately discharged. The traverse survey programme was reduced from a "four-party " to a " two-party " basis, and the settlement programme reduced from a " four-party " to a " three-party" basis. According to the programme settled last years, traverse survey was to be done this year (1921-22) by four parties in the districts of Khulna, Pabna-Bogra, Birbhum and Murshidabad in which two latter districts some traverse survey had already been done. But to curtail expenditure work on new blocks in Murshidabad and Birbhum was not taken up at all. The reduction of the programme to a " two-party " one resulted in the abolition of nearly 500 men including traversers and menials. It may perhaps be necessary to explain what this " party" basis is. A party is the staff required for a normal block of 800 square miles. Thus one survey party may do the traverse of one block of 800 square miles or of two blocks of 400 in different districts. Similarly, a Settlement party may be doing cadastral survey and *khanapuri* in one or more districts, but the total area will be about 800 square miles. At the beginning of the field season, the Survey staff is divided into parties which take up the traverse survey of particular blocks. The traverse survey is followed by cadastral survey. The usual practice is to do the "cadastral " survey of any area in the year following the one in which it has been " traverse " surveyed by the officers of the Survey Department. Cadastral survey is done by the officers of the Settlement Department, divided in the same manner into different parties. The traverse survey of certain blocks in Birbhum, Murshidabad and Khulna were finished in 1920-21 and cadastral survey in those areas should have been undertaken as a matter of course during the field-season of this year in addition to the work done in Khulna and Pabna-Bogra. But to reduce immediate expenditure as much as possible, orders for stopping the cadastral survey of Murshidabad were at once issued.

The number of Deputy Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors employed on settlement work was cut down and even the number of kanungoes was also reduced from 310 to 279. No Settlement Officers were appointed for Birbhum and Khulna. While the Settlement Officer of Bankura was required to do the work of Birbhum in addition to his own duties, in Khulna the Collector had to be burdened with settlement work in addition to his duties as a District Officer. Munsifs who formerly used to come for training for a continuous period of 18 months are being sent back after the field-season. The settlement budget has been cut down by Rs. 1,11,000 and the survey budget by Rs. 69,000. As in three out of the seven settlements (*viz.*, Bankura, Jessore and Khulna), the work had far advanced, no further reduction could be possible. During the field-season of 1922-23 there will be one full traverse party working in the " C " block of Khulna and half a party in the " E " block of Birbhum. Rupees 1,03,641 has been provided for the former work and Rs. 17,707 for the latter. Two cadastral parties will work in the districts of Khulna and Pabna-Bogra only. The total provision for survey and settlement in 1922-23 is Rs. 20½ lakhs as against Rs. 27½ lakhs in last year's budget. Every attempt is being made to curtail expenditure as much as possible. The services of some of the officers of the Survey Department are being dispensed with by providing for them elsewhere. In the circumstances, it is manifest that the Survey-Settlement budget is by no means an extravagant one.

These are all the remarks I have to make in introducing this head.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I understand that in the absence of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, Professor S. C. Mukherji wishes to move his motion.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: In the absence of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, I move that the demand of Rs. 4,40,900 under " 5A.—Charges of Administration " be reduced by Rs. 100 (travelling allowance).

The cut that has been made in the grant is only nominal, but it goes to show that our objection is to the principle underlying the grant. If the budget pages are gone through, hundreds of these items appear, and they appear almost in every page. If the sums under this general head of " travelling allowance " in regard to various departments be totalled up, I wonder what the total amount would come to; it will come to a pretty appreciable amount and we feel that in view of our financial stringency, here is a matter where we can effect economy, and where we can reasonably expect wholehearted co-operation from the side of Government. I am often told in this Council Chamber, " what does this cut mean, it is a mere drop in the ocean. How much are you going to save? What economy will it effect? " I think the whole thing is looked at from a wrong angle of vision. The question is not how much money is going to be saved, but whether it is the right thing to do. All

this money that comes from the poor tax-payer is trust money and this Legislative Council is the custodian of that trust money. It does not matter whether it is a crore of rupees, or a *cowrie* or a farthing. The question is, if it is trust money, and if we consider that it is a wrong expenditure that expenditure must be put an end to. Only the other day a question was asked in this Council by a member in regard to the Department of Industries, and it was revealed that the travelling allowances in most cases were more than the salaries of the persons drawing the travelling allowances. We find there is real enthusiasm to discover work in order to draw a large amount of travelling allowance. There is a general feeling, if I mistake not, that the whole policy ought to be reviewed, and, if possible, expenditure should be cut down by half. Whether you do it by allowing single first class or double second class, or single second class, that is a matter of detail. I think the Government ought to reconsider the whole policy. We, non-official members, are prepared to approach the question in a reasonable mood if Government is prepared to approach it in a sympathetic spirit I do not think it is matter which needs a very long speech, and with these few remarks I place my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I support this proposal. It seems that travelling allowances are a source of income to a very large number of officers The instance referred to by Professor Mukherji about the Industrial Department was a——

MEMBER in charge of LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): May I rise to a point of order? The Industries Department does not come under this budget head at all.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I presume I am in order.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: You are discussing the grant under 5A.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I think I am quite in order. I have not forgotten the question before us, nor have I overlooked it. I am only illustrating my point. There are methods of making money out of travelling allowances as shown the other day by the admission made by the officer responsible. People who ordinarily travel second class ought to charge second class and not double first class. It is an unjust addition to their income. People who ordinarily travel intermediate ought not to get more than intermediate fares. They may be allowed travelling allowance for their servants, and in certain cases, for relatives, their wives, children when transferred, but surely it is an absurdity that a gentleman who has never travelled first class, should be allowed to draw double first class when travelling in inferior classes. With these observations I support the motion. The amount asked to be reduced is only

Rs. 100, but that is only to call attention to this matter. There is something in the objection, and it is hoped that the persons responsible will look into it.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I do not go to the extent of saying that no travelling allowance should be given at all, but my point is that travelling allowance should not be made a source of profit.

At the present moment we find that there is a tendency on the part of many officers of Government to earn as much as they can in the shape of travelling allowance, and this is borne out by the reply to the question put by my friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. You will find from that statement that the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Circle, whose present rate of salary is Rs. 6,000 a year—and it is not known whether it was less in previous years—drew Rs. 4,414-5-0 as travelling allowance in the year 1918-19, Rs. 8,856-13-0 in the year 1919-20, and Rs. 5,762-6-0 in the following year. This one instance is good enough. If the allotments to the transferred departments are swept away by the travelling allowance of its officers, how can we expect any money for demonstration and other works of the department for which money is mostly required. We know that the increases made by steamer and railway companies in fares affect the allowance, and there is more margin of profit for this reason. Even members of the Government of India services travel second class and draw first class allowances. Instances are very rare of members of the Provincial services travelling first class. They not only travel in second class, but also sometimes in lower classes, and Council members are no exception. The present rules have given further concession in favour of an officer on transfer—a fare for each member of his family, and in addition to double fares an extra fare for himself, that is, three fares for himself and a fare for each member of his family. Is this at all necessary and justifiable? I am sure travelling allowance includes halting allowance, and I would explain how this latter amount is wasted. Government officers have no necessity for halting allowance when they go out on tour, and I will give you my reasons. In the first place, they get comfortable circuit houses, *dák* bungalows and inspection bungalows to live in. Secondly, they have on very rare occasions to take their own domestic servants with them; their office peons and orderlies serve the purpose. And thirdly, they often get invitations from mufassal people, and my friend Shah Syed Emdadul Haq knows more about this. They also get presents from their own subordinates; members in touch with the police service will bear me out in this respect.

If the principle be accepted, I, for my part, can say that I am prepared to accept double second class travelling allowance and also double third class for my servants for attending meetings of the Council. But at the same time I would protest if any officer of Government——

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: May I rise to a point of order? The travelling allowance of the members of the Legislative Council is not concerned with the head of the budget before us.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I was speaking of travelling allowance as a whole only to explain how this can be saved in the budget allotment. I referred to the travelling allowance of members of Council as an example.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Please confine your remarks to the question before the House.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: With these remarks I must say that there is ample room for reduction of travelling allowance in all the departments and not merely under the head which we are dealing with at present.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: There is a general feeling in this country, and everybody who knows anything with regard to this matter, knows that this matter of travelling allowance is assuming gigantic proportions, and we feel that the time has come when the pruning-knife should be applied. No doubt there is a lot of vested interest in it, and no doubt those who will be called upon by us to apply the knife are themselves very much interested in it, but we do know and do insist upon it, that these things should be revised. The time has come for this revision. I shall also show to the House how injustice is being done in another way. A sub-inspector of police was drawing Rs. 85; on account of high prices, his salary was raised to Rs. 100; as soon as he got this increase, he was given second class travelling allowance; the reason for the increase of pay was high prices. Is that any reason why he should draw second class travelling allowance also, just because his pay was increased? I mentioned the matter to Sir Henry Wheeler, and he told me he would look into and find out. He also told me, if I remember aright, that these travelling allowances are paid under the rules of the Government of India. Then take the case of a munsif who was drawing Rs. 300; his salary was raised to Rs. 500, and immediately he got first class travelling allowance for himself and his family. Is there any reason why he should be paid additional first class fares? (A voice: "That is only once in three years.") It might be, but we who are acquainted with the mufassal, know how these opportunities for transfer are sought for by executive officers. They get a travelling allowance when travelling beyond a five-mile radius from headquarters; they travel almost every day. I say if there is a desire to cut down expenses or to make such reductions as are legitimate, and ought to be made, that can easily be done.

We do feel that the travelling allowances are going up very high. The mere fact that salaries have been recently raised is no reason that we should be paying the officers higher travelling allowances. Of course, I am speaking without figures and I am only making a suggestion that something may be done; for instance, officers on a pay of Rs. 250 to Rs. 1,000 should be allowed double second class and those above Rs. 1,000 double first class. It may, however, be unpleasant to many of our friends,

but the question is not whether it is unpleasant to them or not; as we have been called upon to pay higher taxes on everything from salt upwards—everything that it is possible to conceive. Then, again, the cost of travelling allowances has gone up higher and we have again got to pay higher fares for first and second class tickets. Considering all these circumstances, I think the time has come when we must demand that there should be a revision of the whole situation and the whole thing should be looked into.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: With due respect to any ruling from the Chair, I must confess that I have not been able to find out from a single speaker why the members object to the budget estimates for travelling allowances under the head of "Land Revenue." It has struck me that the debate on this point so far it has taken place shows that the matter is one which might well have been postponed for a resolution recommending to Government that according to the views of some members of this Council the travelling allowances are too elastic and that certain officers take undue advantage of these rules. Had that been done, the speeches that have been made to-day would have undoubtedly been more intelligible. But, concerned as I am with the head "Land Revenue," I must confess that I have not as yet heard any argument as to why the amount that we have put in the budget for travelling allowances should be reduced by Rs. 100 or Rs. 50 or some such amount. No such arguments have so far been advanced. However that may be, I should just like to make a very few observations regarding this question of travelling allowances that has been brought forward before the Council

Professor Mukherji said that the idea was simply to make a nominal cut and to impress upon the Government the objection of some of the members of this Council to the way in which these travelling allowances are drawn. I think it will be clear to everybody that if officer *A* who is entitled to first class travelling allowance travels as a third class passenger with the desire of making a little money and thereby does something derogatory to his own position, it is a matter which must necessarily be inquired into by the controlling officer of that officer *A*. Government cannot be accused if officer *A*, who is entitled to first class fares under the Civil Service Regulations, draws the first class fare but travels third class and thereby makes a little income, or that he may be doing unnecessary touring by going to and fro. It is a thing for which perhaps if his controlling officer were a little more strict he could be brought to book. As regards this matter I am in entire sympathy with the feelings of those members who have spoken on the subject and so far as my departments are concerned, I can assure the members of this Council that we shall see that our controlling officers in future are a little more careful about the travelling allowances drawn by the different officers. But it must be clear that no officer can travel by paying anything out of his own pocket. Whether a member of this Council wishes to travel

second class, third class or fourth class—as we all know when the late Mr. W. E. Gladstone was travelling third class on being asked by a gentleman why he was doing so said that he was travelling third class because there was no fourth class—is of course a matter of individual taste or of individual spirit of independence or of thrift; but what we have got to consider as a Government is this that if a member of this Council were to draw the attention of Government to individual cases or to these facts which I have myself mentioned, it would be quite intelligible. But what I do think is, considering that we have such a lot of work before this Council in connection with the budget demands that when in the Revenue Department we have provided for this money under the head of travelling allowances after considering the past actuals, whether it would be a sensible thing to make such a nominal cut just to show by that course of action their disapproval by cutting down hundred rupees under one head and fifty rupees under another head. Although I am not now a non-official member, but if I were a non-official member, I would certainly have brought forward a resolution and shown the disapproval of the non-official members of the Council in the way in which some officials of Government drew travelling allowances and that would have been more intelligible. But if the Council decides to cut Rs. 100 here or Rs. 50 there, it is perfectly clear that if there is a lump provision in the department concerned, it will find the money cut from that lump provision. Therefore, what good will it result by this cutting of Rs. 100 when, specially with regard to these departments, we have framed our budget according to the averages and the actuals of the past? For these reasons, I would strongly urge those members who have spoken on the subject that I think that this is an inopportune moment, that it is not the proper way of drawing the attention of the Government to this question and that by cutting Rs 100 here and Rs. 50 there, no useful purpose would be served. In view of the fact that we have budgeted for this amount after considering our past averages and actuals, I must naturally oppose this motion, although, as I have said, I am prepared, so far as my department are concerned, and I am sure that every member of the Government will do the same *viz.*, to draw the attention of the controlling officers to the irregularities that the members have spoken of There may no doubt be cases here and there where subordinate officers have tried to evade the rules. In concluding, I may point out that the object that the members of this Council have in view is what the Civil Service Regulations lay down very clearly, that the travelling and halting allowances should never be made a source of income: that is perfectly clear to the Government as well as to the non-official members. But, of course, there may be individual cases in which these subordinate officers may have erred; and all that we can in our department do is to tell the controlling officers to be more strict For these reasons, I do not think that in the first place the members of this Council who wish to reduce this amount by Rs. 100 are justified in making this cut, because they

have not given me a single reason why my department should be singled out, and secondly, I consider that we, in the Revenue Department, are perfectly justified in putting the amount in the budget when we have done so after considering the averages and the past actuals.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: As the Finance Department is in charge of the administration of the travelling allowance rules, I may perhaps be allowed to supplement what the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur has said from the point of view of his department. In the first place, I should like to point out that from the speeches that have been made, one might imagine that we had suddenly raised travelling allowances all round, or that we had shown an unprecedently large sum on account of travelling allowances in the budget. Neither of those things has taken place. As a matter of fact, we have lately reduced the number of officers in the first class and put them down to the second, because owing to the recent increase of pay in the various services we have raised the limits defining these classes. Formerly, officers drawing Rs. 500 or more used to be treated as first class officers and thus entitled to first class rates. We have now raised that limit to Rs. 600. Similarly, we have raised the limit of second class officers from Rs. 100 to Rs. 125. That is a step, Sir, which we took only last December, as members will see from the new rules that were published in the Gazette about the end of December.

Then, I should like to point out that the rates of travelling allowance we pay have been in force for many years; and it is notorious that the cost of travelling like the cost of many other things has gone up very much in the last five or six years. It is not merely a question of railway travelling and double first class fares and that sort of thing. Railway travelling in this province is comparatively rare: it is a question of travelling by carts and boats; and officers serving in East Bengal particularly will tell you that their travelling allowances very frequently do not at all cover their expenses. I anticipate, Sir, that if we had an inquiry made into this matter—a retrenchment inquiry which is so often advocated in this Council in regard to various other matters, we should, as a matter of fact, find ourselves obliged very likely to increase the rates rather than lower them. It is my impression that there is no great scope for retrenchment in this matter and that the chances are that if we went into the question of travelling allowances as a whole for all classes of officers, we should find ourselves landed in greater expenditure instead of saving anything.

The motion was then put and lost.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I ought to point out to the members that there are 20 items under the head "Land Revenue" and we have got barely one hour and thirty-five minutes, and that the remaining 16 items will have to be finished by that time. So I am afraid each member will have only five or six minutes.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I move that the demand [illegible] under the heading "Land Acquisition Establishment—Land Acquisition Officers," be reduced to Rs. 21,350. I wish to tell the House, as briefly as I can, the reason which have induced me to bring this amendment before the Council. From the details of the budget you will find that in 1921-22, the number of Land Acquisition Officers is not shown. So, we are not in a position to say whether there has been an increase in the number of Land Acquisition Officers. Apart from that the revised estimate for 1921-22 shows that the amount voted was Rs. 25,000, whereas the non-voted item was Rs. 30,000, thus making a total of Rs. 55,000. The budget estimates for 1922-23 is for Rs. 60,050 out of which Rs. 26,400 is voted and Rs. 33,650 is non-voted; or in other words the voted item shows an increase of Rs. 1,400 and the increase in the non-voted item is Rs. 3,650. My amendment is for a reduction of Rs. 5,050, *i.e.*, the difference between the revised estimate for 1921-22 and the budget demand for 1922-23. Then there is one other matter to which I should like to draw the attention of the House; it is this: it will appear that in the revised estimate for 1921-22, there was a demand for Rs. 66,000 against the item for clerks, servants and temporary establishment and this has been reduced to Rs. 61,550 for 1922-23. As I have gone into this matter—I am of course speaking subject to correction—I think it is sufficiently clear that there has been a reduction in the establishment of clerks, servants and temporary establishment. If that is so, it is inconceivable to me as to why the last year's revised estimate should be exceeded by Rs. 5,050 this year.

With these words, I beg to commend my amendment to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I am not clear as to what Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy said about the provision for clerks, servants and temporary establishment. If you will look at page 25, you will find that the total for the year 1922-23 (Rs. 72,550) is really more than that of 1921-22 (*viz.*, Rs. 66,000); as for the year 1922-23, there is a provision of Rs. 11,000 in view of the revision of the ministerial officers' salaries in accordance with the Salaries Committee's report, *ad interim* allowances having to go out.

I think I shall be able to dispose of this motion with a few words. Mr. Roy wants to reduce Rs. 26,400 (item 3—voted) to Rs. 21,350. I may point out that the provision of Rs. 26,400 cannot be reduced by a single pice for the simple reason that this sum is made up as follows:—

		Rs.
The salary of the 2nd Land Acquisition Collector, Calcutta, Rs. 1,200 a month.	...	14,400 a year.
The salary of the 3rd Land Acquisition Collector, Calcutta, Rs. 1,000 a month.	...	12,000 a year.
Total		26,400.

Therefore, on behalf of Government, I cannot accept a cut from the salaries of these two officers—permanent officers—who carry on the land acquisition work in Calcutta.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 18,000 under the heading '5A.—Charges of Administration—Certificate Establishment—Temporary Establishment' be reduced to Rs. 6,000."

I will state as briefly as I can the reason why I have proposed this motion. In the first place, I must confess the budget, so far as I am concerned, appears to be impenetrable. In 1920-21, the actuals were Rs. 4,400 for temporary establishment. In the budget estimate for 1921-22, it was Rs. 20,000, and in the revised estimate for 1921-22, it was reduced to Rs. 12,600, but this year—I mean 1922-23—in the budget estimate it is Rs. 18,000. My proposal is that there ought to be a 50 per cent. increase over Rs. 4,400, *i.e.*, the actuals for 1920-21.

With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I think a few words from me will convince Mr. Roy that we have not put in anything extravagantly. So far as I can gather, Mr. Roy's main objection is that Rs. 4,400 were put as the actuals for 1920-21 and therefore he thinks that our providing Rs. 18,000 for temporary establishment is too liberal. Well, my answer to Mr. Roy will be as follows:—

The appointment of temporary establishment is regulated by rule 52 at page 65 of the Certificate Manual. A temporary establishment is employed when the work in the certificate office exceeds a certain number of cases. Extra clerks may then be employed according to a definite scale It should be remembered that the cost of certificate establishment is met in the case of certificates filed by the Court of Wards or authorities other than Government by the court-fees which are levied. The provision of Rs. 18,000 includes Rs. 8,460 on account of the application of the certificate procedure to the Fateh Singh Estate. This cost will be met by the proprietor of the estate. The current year's budget includes an amount of Rs. 4,563 on account of the certificate establishment for the same purpose in the Fateh Singh Estate. This explains the part of the increase in the allotment for 1921-22 as compared with that for 1926-21. Another reason for the higher cost is the higher scale of pay for clerks. If the motion were accepted, the amount provided would be altogether insufficient for the expenditure.

For these reasons, I am unable to accept the reduction proposed.

The motion was then put and lost.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 7,000 under the heading 'Kanungo Establishment—Temporary Establishment', be refused."

I am not aware why this temporary establishment is maintained and why provision should at all be made for temporary establishment under this head. I also fail to see why under this head a sum of Rs. 3,000 has been provided as a non-voted item, the more so because in the current year, I mean 1921-22, there was no provision for any amount as a non-voted subject. The actuals for 1920-21, when presumably there was more work, were Rs. 5,912; and I do not understand why the total amount this year has been put at Rs. 10,000. For the reasons I have given above, I suggest that the whole amount be refused.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: If this amount of Rs. 7,000 were refused, the result would be that the temporary establishment now employed will have to be discharged at once. This temporary establishment is chiefly employed on work in connection with civil courts, for instance in cases regarding *diara* resumptions. It is also employed on such work as the maintenance of boundary marks. Thus, in 1921-22, a kanungo with two chainmen and a surveyor were employed in Mymensingh for *diara* resumption work at a cost of Rs. 1,536. This establishment will be required again next year at a cost of Rs. 1,632. Similarly, in Faridpur, a kanungo and a messenger were employed in 1921-22 for 11 months at a cost of Rs. 770 and will be required again next year. The actuals for the first six months of 1921-22 were Rs. 4,628. Government obviously cannot agree to a motion which would leave no provision for this necessary temporary establishment. Therefore, for these reasons, I must oppose this motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

I move that the demand for Rs. 36,000 under head '5B.—Management of Government Estates—Collection of Revenue—Travelling allowance,' be reduced by Rs. 6,000.

Sir, it is seen that under this head there has been an increase of Rs. 500 from last year's grant. I hope, however, that some reduction might be made. I, therefore, beg leave to withdraw the motion

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

I beg to move "that the demand for Rs. 30,000 for commission on collection of rents under '5B.—Management of Government Estates—Collection of Revenue—Contingencies' be reduced by Rs. 3,000."

Last year the demand was for Rs. 27,000. This year, however Rs. 3,000 has been added. The proper remedy for the treatment of the disease of deficit lies in curtailment of Rs. 3,000 from this item. I have been asked by the Deputy-President not to speak more than 3 minutes

and in so doing, I think I cannot do better than confine myself within the time-limit allowed by the Deputy-President. With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the Council.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri is absent and I take it that his motion (No. 11) fails.

May I, with your permission, explain a few things to the Shah Sahib? I think what the Shah Sahib objects to is the payment of commission on collection of rents. Commission is allowed to tahsildars in certain districts in the Rajshahi and Burdwan Divisions on collection of rents at rates sanctioned by the Board in rule 12, page 3, of the Government Estates Manual. The increase in the provision for 1922-23 is chiefly due to the grant of increased rates of commission in certain districts, and I am sure that even some of the private zamindars who have this tahsildari system will probably bear out the fact that the rates have been increased and in consequence Government have got also to increase their rates of commission to the tahsildars. For these reasons, it is not possible to cut down the amount as proposed by him.

The Hon'ble Member then explained in Bengali the gist of his remarks to the Shah Sahib who thereupon asked leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendment was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the sum of Rs. 4,38,000 which it is proposed to grant for the collection of revenue, be reduced by Rs. 20,000 from the voted contingencies charges."

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: I move "that the demand for Rs 1,44,000 be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000 for the colonisation in the Sunderbans."

It is an admitted fact that all demands for grants for improvements should be assented to. But unless the Council is given sufficient data to form an idea on the subject this Council should refuse its assent to the demands. It is a well-known fact that the lessees who take settlement of lands in the Sunderbans themselves make the improvements and colonize the area. I hope the Hon'ble Member in charge will be pleased to place sufficient materials before this Council, so that we may be in a position to decide whether we should assent to or refuse the grant.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to support this motion. It is wrong in principle that Government should embark on any speculative transaction—that the Government should be a trading concern. In other countries, Government would never have been

allowed to compete with persons who would, at their own cost, reclaim, the Sunderban lands and settle tenants. Whenever Government has attempted to do so, it has lost money. It is a fad of the Government that because the Sunderban grantees have made profits, Government can do so, because Sir Daniel Hamilton has made large profits, therefore Government ought to do the same thing. But, unfortunately, Government cannot do so. Whenever it has done so, it has been landed in disaster: for example, the land in the Sunderbans was granted after much importunities to the Maharaja of Cossimbazar after Government had incurred an expenditure of over 10 lakhs of rupees. I understand that the position in the Barisal district is more advantageous for colonisation than in the 24-Parganas, because in the Barisal district the water of the rivers is sweet for six months and large embankments there are not necessary, and even then Government have to satisfy us that they are making a handsome profit. Unless they can do so, I think the Council will be justified in rejecting this demand, and I observe further that even making a handsome profit is not an excuse why they should compete with other people.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I think it is time for Government to see that our villages are not depopulated before they go to populate the Sunderbans. I think Government should not waste money over populating the Sunderbans when our populous villages are getting into deserts. What is the good of spending money on the Sunderbans? If you have money, why do you not spend it in improving the villages?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I must say at the outset that I am sorry that my friend Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, who has just spoken against Government exploiting this area, applied for a portion of this very tract so that he might exploit it himself.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: Of course, why not?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: My reply to Babu Hem Chandra Nasker's motion is as follows: He wants to reduce this demand by Rs. 1 lakh, leaving Rs. 44,000. Of Rs. 1,44,000 Rs. 1,17,000 is for colonisation in Bakarganj and 24-Parganas Sunderbans and Rs. 27,000 is for all other districts. The motion originally received referred to the Rs. 1,17,000 for colonisation: so it is clear that the mover does not wish to reduce the amount allotted for all other districts.

Out of the Rs. 1,17,000, Rs. 88,000 is provided for the Bakarganj Sunderbans and Rs. 29,000 for the 24-Parganas Sunderbans.

The sum of Rs. 88,000 for Bakarganj is made up as follows:—

Establishment—Rs. 24,577; Agricultural improvements—Rs. 45,150; Sanitary improvements—Rs. 4,500; and Miscellaneous improvements—Rs. 13,300. The total is Rs 87,527 of Rs. 88,000 in round figures.

The sum of Rs. 29,000 provided for the 24-Parganas colonisation is made up as follows:—

Establishment—Rs. 4,643; Agricultural improvements—Rs. 19,758; Sanitary improvements—Rs. 1,250; and Miscellaneous improvements—Rs. 3,750. The detailed programme has not yet been received from the Collector, but from a letter dated the 14th June, 1921, it appears that it is proposed to spend Rs. 11,600 odd on the reclamation of a new block in the southern portion of Ram Karer char east on which Rs. 9,000 odd was expected to be spent in the present year 1921-22.

It will be seen from the above that establishment alone will cost Rs. 29,000 against the Rs. 17,000 which the mover would leave in the budget. The question of the value of the colonisation schemes cannot be minimised and I will mention certain facts later on. What I wish to point out is this. I protest strongly against the idea that when Government have got khas mahals and when the amount that they get from these khas mahals to the General Revenues of the province from which we meet expenditure for the whole province, it is a fallacious argument to say that Government must not make profits like private individuals. If Government possesses land, surely Government are not going to allow that land to lie fallow. Surely it is the duty of Government to develop that land as a good landlord. It is not the duty of Government to allow middlemen to come in. That being so, they have as much right as private proprietors to keep their khas mahal lands as khas or let them out as they think best. If any member can point out that by this Government will make less profit than a private individual, it will be for the members of this Council to say that Government can make a bigger profit from the *lotdari* system than by the present system. I do not see why the new *raiyatwari* system should be condemned in this manner. I will give you an idea as to the comparative return from the old *lotdari* system and the new *raiyatwari* system and I will give you certain figures. The Collector of the 24-Parganas has furnished figures which show the return from the old settlements and from the colonised areas. The old settlements are of several kinds but for purposes of comparison, we may take the settlements under the Large Capitalist Rules. These cover the greatest area and are more favourable to Government than the other kinds of settlement. There have been no settlements under the Small Capitalist Rules. The fact is important for making the comparison. They are in round figures—

Area, 3,40,000 acres; present revenue, Rs. 2,07,000; maximum future revenue under present leases, Rs. 2,35,000. In other words the present revenue is less than 9½ annas an acre, and the miximum future revenue is just 11 annas an acre.

In the colonisation area in the 24-Parganas, wor... ...ll going on in some areas, but approximate figures are—

Area settled, 5,170 acres: Rental, Rs. 29,100. The revenue therefore is Rs. 5-10-0 an acre, as compared with the maximum future 11 annas an acre under the old rules. It is of course to be remembered that for the lands settled under the old rules, Government received a *salami* of Re. 1 to Rs. 3-8-0 an acre, whilst in the colonisation area Government has to spend money in reclamation and maintenance of embankments and other works, but still the balance of advantage is greatly in favour of the colonisation scheme.

Now I should like to read out to you a note recorded by Mr. (now Sir Charles) Stevenson-Moore regarding the Bakarganj area about which my friend Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur seems to have spoken with a good deal of authority. This is what Sir Charles Stevenson-Moore remarked in 1915—

For the colonisation scheme as it is being worked in the Bakargunge Sundarbans, I have nothing but unqualified praise. What has been done in this area constitutes a record of which the local officers can justly be proud, and should, in my opinion, be regarded as the model on which any scheme for the development of the Khulna and 24-Parganas Sundarbans (after such modifications as the difference of physical conditions necessitates) should be based. Since 1915, development has been even more creditable, and the only real defect that can be pointed to is the recent failure of reclamation to keep pace with colonisation—a failure due to the financial stringency occasioned by the war. A contrast with the tardiness of reclamation under the rules of 1853 and 1879 is inevitable, and is finely illustrated by the history of Chhota Bogi. But the real success has not been one of quantity, so much as of quantity and this success has been largely due to the human element, the two Colonisation Officers, Khan Bahadur Ataur Rahaman and Khan Sahib Qamaraddin Ahmad: to them is jointly due the credit for the establishment of a colony unparalleled in Bengal. Each settlement is a model created almost on patriarchial lines with the Colonisation Officer at its head. The Maghs have been converted from a poverty-stricken community to a body of prosperous cultivators. Rents are moderate, though not too low; tanks for drinking water have been provided by Government assisted liberally, since 1911, by the District Board, and at Khepupara, a headquarter has been established, containing all the advantages of a modern village which the colonists look upon as their centre. Loans have been generously granted by Government, and faithfully repaid. A spirit of thrift and co-operation is being inculcated and already 42 Co-operative Credit Societies have been established. A central bank has also been registered with a capital of 4 lakhs of rupees, and in Khepupara a Co-operative Sale Society has commenced a prosperous career not only by the sale of necessaries to the colonists, but also for the purpose of disposing of their produce on a co-operative basis. The area is a model in development—not only in the principle and system which have rendered it possible but in the spirit with which the work has been effected and the humanity which has been instilled into the dry maxims of the rules.

Now this is as regards Bakarganj

Then as regards the remarks made by my friend Mr. Mallik about sanitation and depopulation in the villages, well I quite agree with him that we should do our best to improve insanitary areas, but that is a matter with which I am not concerned but my esteemed friend Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea. But that is no reason why Government should

not reclaim these areas. It will be a very short-sighted policy if this reclamation scheme be stopped as so much good work has already been done.

For these reasons I oppose the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated is as follows—I move "that the demand for Rs. 4,000 under head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Controlling and Allowances' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

For 1920-21, the Budget grant under this head was Rs. 1,988; for 1921-22, it was Rs. 3,300; and for 1922-23, *i.e.*, the ensuing financial year, the grant has been shown as Rs. 4,500. Effective economies can be made if a careful eye is kept on the heading "Allowance." It is highly desirable that for the treatment of the disease of deficit, Rs. 1,000 at least should be tapped out of this grant.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I think the Shah Sahib will withdraw this motion because the sanctioned budget for 1921-22 was Rs. 3,500. Rs. 4,000 was suggested by the Director of Surveys in view of past actuals: the Accountant-General adopted this amount. I think it is my duty to explain to the Council that the charges under this head vary according to the requirements of the work.

The Hon'ble Member then explained his remarks in Bengali to the Shah Sahib.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 14,170 under the heading '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Temporary Establishment,' be reduced to Rs. 5,000."

For the reason that survey and settlement operations have been kept in abeyance in certain parts of the province, the temporary establishment may, I think, be reduced to a considerable extent. The budget estimate for the current year was Rs. 14,562 and the provision of a smaller amount indicates that there is a necessity for reduction. I think that it would be quite enough to fix the amount at Rs. 5,000. In the case of clerks also, we find that although the actuals for the year 1920-21 were Rs. 5,190, the budget provision for the year 1921-22 was Rs. 4,900 showing a decrease, and the amount now proposed is Rs. 4,296, a reduction of about Rs. 900 from the actuals of 1920-21. This speaks of the less amount of work required for the department and the temporary establishment may, for this reason, be considerably reduced.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The temporary establishment that Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur has referred to is the temporary establishment of draftsmen,

printers and menials in the Survey and Settlement work. In the reproduction section, the cost is Rs. 10,150, in the drawing section Rs. 3,600 and in the map record section Rs. 420. The Drawing Office, Bengal, is conducted with the minimum permanent staff, and this staff is supplemented by a temporary staff in accordance with requirements. The requirements are those of the Settlement Department for maps and of the Government provincial standardised mapping. Next year's estimate for map reproduction is based on the Director of Land Records' probable requirements of 900,000 pulls or copies and other provincial requirements of 300,000 pulls or copies. The Government provincial standardised mapping is already much in arrears. If the Drawing Office cannot provide the Director of Land Records with the reproduced maps, the maps cannot be distributed at the recovery camps. It would therefore certainly be unsafe to reduce this estimate for temporary establishment.

For these reasons, I oppose the motion and I hope the Rai Bahadur will see his way to withdraw it.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu NALINI NATH ROY: I move that the demand for Rs. 18,32,000 for the Survey and Settlement operations be reduced by Rs. 19,707.

In commending the motion which stands in my name to your acceptance, I admit that I am actuated by the motive of directing your attention to the nation's benefit, the nation's first claim—to live. I frankly confess that I am more anxious for Birbhum's death-rate and unhealthiness than survey and settlement. We have experienced to our cost that although we call it settlement, it unsettles everything. The money that will be spent this year Rs. 19,700 is no doubt small, but it should be remembered that it is only the thin end of the wedge; after the traverse survey, will follow cadastral survey; and then will follow the recording of rights. It should be remembered that the cost of the people will be doubled the sum in the shape of extra legal cost. The cost to the people is not ended by the completion of survey and settlement; and final publication of the records, brings in along with it, its own catalogue of miseries.

I fail to understand why these operations are at all carried on in the permanently settled and relatively advanced district of Bengal at such a cost to the country. It is costly to the Government and what is more it is ruinously costly to the people. To those of us who have not passed through the matters of a district settlement operation, my words will fail to convey an adequate idea of what sort of a thing it is. The rights and privileges of inhabitants standing at the time of the permanent settlement of Bengal must be produced and proved over again to the satisfaction of officers of the Department, and no one is safe, no right is sacred, unless this satisfaction of the officials can be obtained. This happens in

the case where rights are not challenged or can be easily proved; but in cases where disputes are more real, the cost of the people can be better imagined than described.

As soon as the result of survey and settlement operations are finally published, a new limitation for the rights and privileges of the people comes into operation. This new limitation extends from two to three months within which people must assert or give up their rights. Within these two and three months the applications for settlement of fair rent enhancement of rent, and curtailment of rent must be filed. The result is that all the dormant litigancy of the district is roused at one and the same time.

There is another thing which should be noted. A great harm and injustice is done by compelling people to assert or sacrifice their rights not at their own will and convenience but according to the dictates of Government. To many people this dictation proves unreasonable and they have to forego their rights and privileges. Through this sudden avalanche of litigation, through recovery of cost of the Government the people, at the end of the survey and settlement operations, are left distinctly impoverished in their condition; and why? For benefit of having their lands officially catalogued for them at their own cost and the cost of their own Government this impoverishment of the district takes away, for years to come, the ability of the people to contribute to voluntary taxation for the purpose of sanitation and education as well as their ability to maintain or improve sanitation of their own homes—and for what—for the purpose of making a land record.

Another reason of my opposition is that this moment is inopportune. As a representative of the people, we must see the question from all sides and not the record-of-rights only. When we find that per 1,000 men in the district of Birbhum excess of deaths over births are 38·6; when we find from the figures of the last census that the population decreased by 9·4, we are bound to oppose anything that will affect the people for the impoverishment of their condition. I appeal to the Council to look to the question from this side and ask them to save the people of Birbhum from the trouble of survey and settlement when they are dying like flies.

I think it is the duty of this Council to save unnecessary expenses or even those expenses which are not extremely necessary.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: With a mentality which sees nothing good in the survey and settlement work it is difficult to enter into a discussion, and it is not my intention, therefore, to follow that mentality of the mover of this amendment. What I have got to do is to prove to this Council that the Revenue Department have provided in the budget survey and settlement work on the two-party basis which was agreed to and sanctioned by this Council. We have provided, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, that

during the field-season for 1922-23, there will be one traverse party working in the district of Khulna and half a party in the district of Birbhum and that, in consequence, so much has been provided for the former work and Rs. 17,707 for the latter. Then there are two cadastral parties working in the districts of Khulna, Pabna and Bogra. The mover apparently refers to the provision for the periodical traverse survey. This traverse survey was estimated by the Director of Surveys to cost Rs. 19,707, but owing to reduction of the total estimates the provision has been reduced to Rs. 17,707. This motion has therefore got to be opposed on the ground that we have provided for this work, so that the two-party programme, which has been sanctioned by this Council, may be followed up next year. It is necessary that the party which is now finishing the traverse survey in Pabna-Bogra should now go on with this work. Survey work is already begun in Birbhum, one block having been done in 1920-21; it is therefore proposed to go on with the survey in that district. Only half a block will be taken up. The two survey parties will be working one in Khulna and the other in Birbhum. Apart from the fact that if the work in Birbhum is cut out, one survey party will be disorganised, it is to be remembered that it is not economical, in view of the overhead expenses, to carry on the survey work in only one district. The Council has already expressed an opinion in favour of the continuance of survey and settlement work and this work should be carried on in accordance with a definite programme providing for a fairly equal volume of work year after year. Sudden reductions and increases in work can only mean disorganisation and waste, and I therefore appeal to this Council and to its good sense that since a two-party basis has already been agreed upon, this idea of cutting out Rs. 19,000 and odd for the B block at Birbhum is absolutely short-sighted. The gentlemen who might have thought that this is an extravagant amount will see that we have every reason and legitimate reason to demand this sum. I therefore oppose the motion for reduction.

The motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:

AYES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Sir Ashutosh.
De, Babu Panchanan.
Dass, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

NOES.

Ali, Munshi Ayub.	Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.	Langford, Mr. J.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.	Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Bills, Mr. E. E.	Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
Bose, Mr. S. M.	Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Carey, Mr. W. L.	Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.	Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.	Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.	Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Das, Mr. S. R.	Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra
Duval, Mr. H. P.	Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M.	Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
French, Mr. F. C.	Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.	Spry, Mr. H. E.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.	Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Goode, Mr. S. W.	Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.	Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.	Welsh, Mr. C. F.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.	Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.

The Ayes being 28 and the Noes 38, the motion was lost.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I move "that the demand for hill allowance under 'Superintendence,' detailed account 5D, be refused."

In moving this and several other similar amendments, I do not wish to repeat the arguments of the mover of the resolution on the same subject on the 8th of February, 1921, nor do I propose to open discussions on the merits and demerits of the question and the basic idea underlying the exodus. I simply take my stand on two points when I commend these amendments to the acceptance of this House. First, the extremely bad condition of our finances, about which there is no illusion to-day, and secondly, the assurances given by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, during the voting of discussions on the 16th March, 1921, although I should confess, I was not convinced of all what was said on the occasion. His Excellency the Governor may go to the hills, but I do not see why the Members, Ministers, Secretaries and even some of the heads of the departments will have the occasion to go there. In these days of easy communication, the Governor can remain virtually in touch with his Government without the latters moving along with him. If it is at all imperative for any Member or Minister to go to the hills, there is no reason why he should remain there throughout His Excellency's stay there. I wish therefore that the authorities should consider it, specially in view of the earnest desire of the people to see an all-round retrenchment of unnecessary expenses of the Government, as the limit of taxation seems to have been reached and yet there is the deficit balance.

As regards the amendment in question, I cannot understand why the Director of Land Records or any of his assistants require a trip to the hills. There is certainly no records in the hills, nor does he require constant consultation with His Excellency on urgent problems of administration. He can, under the present amenities of existence, comfortably carry on his work in Calcutta and so the grant for his hill allowance should be refused.

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: I move "that the sum of Rs. 470 which it is proposed to grant for hill allowance, be reduced by Rs. 200."

I think that the Council has already agreed that the hill allowance will be gradually reduced. The budget under this head was originally estimated at Rs. 700 and under the revised estimate it was reduced to Rs. 400, but it must be remembered that some of these officers when they go to the hills also get house allowance and other allowances. Therefore, my proposal is that this hill allowance of Rs. 470 be reduced to Rs. 200.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I should not go into the general question of hill allowance or the exodus to the hills. The amount has been provided for the Director of Land Records for the simple reason that if the Member in charge of the Revenue Department happens to be in Darjeeling or Dacca and if the services of the Director of Land Records are required there, the Director of Land Records has got to go up to Darjeeling or to Dacca. For this reason this amount has been provided and I think from that point of view there ought to be no objection to this allowance. I oppose the motion.

Babu Fanindralal De's amendment was then put and lost.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Before you put it, I would point out that there are other motions——

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I have put Babu Fanindralal De's motion first and I now put the motion of Babu Surendra Narayan Sinha.

Babu Surendra Narayan Sinha's amendment was then put and lost.

Babu FANINDRALAL De: I move "that the demand for Rs.4,000 for 'Travelling Allowance' under '5D.—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

This and similar other amendments are intended for that portion of the travelling allowances, which will be required for travelling to the hills. If the exodus is not accepted, the question does not arise at all. I must confess that I do not know what portion of the travelling allowances is earmarked for the hills, but certainly that contains this item also, as the sum under hill allowances is too small to include travelling charges. That is why I have moved for reductions of a lump sum, hoping to be enlightened by the authorities on the point. Hence my motion.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: This has got nothing to do with the hill travelling allowance. This is the travelling allowance of the Director of Land Records for his ordinary work and not for his going up to the hills. It has been estimated according to the actuals for the past years and I cannot therefore agree to a reduction.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: Having regard to what the Hon'ble Member has said I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: "That the demand for Rs. 5,500 under head '5D.—Superintendence—House rent and other allowances,' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 9,970 under head '5D.—Superintendence (Allowances)' be reduced by Rs. 4,970."

This demand is against Rs. 5,900 of the budget estimate for 1921-22 and against Rs. 3,380, the actuals for 1920-21——

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I think the hon'ble member has quoted the wrong figure. Surely it is Rs. 10,434.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: In any case the demand consists of Rs. 4,075.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: That item has been disposed of by the Council.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I require your ruling as to whether I am entitled to speak on that again in view of the previous decision of the Council.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You could have spoken but you did not.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I bow to your ruling, but may I respectfully point out that it seriously handicaps my position. I am anxious to point out that it would be desirable to reduce the demand of Rs. 9,970 by a certain sum, but my misfortune is that this sum is included in some items on which the Council has already come up to a decision. Whatever that may be I may be allowed to point out to this Council some important points. I fail to understand——

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: All the three items which the hon'ble member is mentioning have already been discussed by this Council.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: In that case I enter my protest and resume my seat.

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 27,36,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Land Revenue" was then put and agreed to.

6.—Excise.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I move "that a sum of Rs. 15,30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '6.—Excise'."

The estimated revenue from excise for the current year was Rs. 2,05,60,000. Owing, however, to various circumstances, such as the prevailing economic conditions, the non-co-operation movement and the measures taken by Government to check consumption, we have had to reduce this in the revised estimate to Rs. 1,82,80,000. For the next year, the revenue is estimated at Rs. 1,90,00,000. The total estimated expenditure amounts to Rs. 16,81,000. It will be seen from these figures that the expenditure incurred is very low in proportion to the revenue, as it amounts only to 8·8 per cent. In framing the estimates of expenditure, the strictest regard has been paid to economy.

The budget estimates for the current year amount to Rs. 17,82,000. This has been reduced in the revised estimate to Rs. 15,50,00, the savings being due to the fact that the provision for the increased pay of the excise staff has not been utilised in full and that there have been savings under establishment owing to vacancies in the sanctioned cadre.

The estimate for the coming year, although it is Rs. 1,30,000 above the revised estimate for the current year, is still Rs. 1 lakh less than the original estimate for the current year. The increase over the revised estimate is due partly to the revision of the pay of ministerial officers in accordance with the McAlpin Committee's Report and to the increase of the rates of pay for the menials and partly due to the increased provision under Contract Contingencies and Rewards. This increased provision has been based on past actuals and has been estimated at the lowest possible figure.

To consider now the detailed accounts.

No. "6A.—Superintendence" shows an increase of about Rs. 20,000 over the actuals for 1920-21. It will be seen that this increase is entirely due to the increase of pay which, during the past year, has been sanctioned for all grades of excise officers and to the provision for improving the pay of ministerial officers.

The head "Contingencies" shows an increase of Rs. 7,000 which is more than counter-balanced by a saving of Rs. 12,000 under the head "Allowances."

Similarly, under detailed accounts "6B.—Presidency Establishment," the total increase is due to the increases of pay. The allowances have been cut down by almost Rs. 5,000 and the "Contingencies" also show a small reduction from the actuals for 1920-21.

The head "6C.—District Executive Establishment" shows the largest increase amounting to Rs. 2,17,000 over the actuals for 1920-21. It will be seen that the provision for allowances is practically the same

as the actuals for 1920-21, and the increase is due to the improved pay of the establishment for which the Council voted money last year.

Under the head "6D.—Distilleries," the allowances are practically the same as the actuals for 1920-21, though there has been an unavoidable increase under the head "Contingencies." It will be seen from those figures that the estimates under "Allowances" and "Contingencies" have been framed with the most rigid economy. They are in fact the barest minimum on which the work of the department can be carried on.

I need not repeat what I said in my speech on the general discussion of the budget, but I may remind the Council that Government have taken steps to meet the wishes of the Council by enforcing measures for the reduction of consumption. If these measures are to have the desired effect, it is essential that the efficiency of the department should not be impaired. The more restrictions are placed on consumption, the greater is the probability of attempts being made to evade them, and therefore, the greater is the necessity for efficient supervision by the officers of the department. I have gone carefully into the details of the budget myself and am satisfied that the estimate is the lowest figure possible without seriously impairing the efficiency of the department. This view was shared by the Standing Committee for Excise. I ask the Council to vote the grant of Rs. 15,30,000

Maulvi SHAH MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURI: I move " that the demand for Rs. 53,400 under head '6A.—Superintendance—Gazetted Officers,' be refused."

This motion means the abolition of the newly-created appointment of Superintendent of Excise and this has been moved on the ground of economy and retrenchment. Before 1915, there were no such appointment—the duties of this office being performed by a Deputy Collector who, in addition to his other duties as Deputy Magistrate and Collector, discharged the function of this office quite satisfactorily. It took them only few hours every week to manage the excise office. As a general rule, the Excise Deputy Collector was also in charge of the Income-Tax Department and some times of the road-cess revaluation. When they went out to the mufassal on tour, they inspected not only the excise shops but also made inquiries as to income-tax and road-cess matters; so the same travelling allownace covered all the different kinds of public duties.

What was the necessity then of separating the excise department from the general collectorate; the public could never fully understand. The Collector is even now the head of the excise department in the district. When he can manage all the other important collectorate departments with the aid of his deputy collector among whom he divides the work, I do not understand why a different view is taken with respect to the excise department. What has been the result of this separation, only an additoinal expenditure and nothing else.

I cannot agree if anyone says that the excise department was more difficult to manage than the treasury or the income-tax or the certificate, or the *tauzi* or the khas mahal. All these departments are even now being managed by the deputy collectors. The advantage of this system is obvious. If the treasury or any other work is heavy in a particular district one whole-time deputy collector is allowed for the purpose. But if the work of his particular department is not heavy he does several other duties in addition. In my district Malda, for example, the treasury officer is also in charge of several collectorate departments and does criminal work too—

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I rise to a point of order. The item on which the hon'ble member is speaking has nothing to do with the district establishment at all. It is the headquarters establishment.

Maulvi SHAH MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURI: I am only discussing the general question.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: The member, I submit, is not entitled to talk on the administration of the district.

Maulvi SHAH MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURI: As soon as you appoint a man as a special officer, you make him incapable to do other works even if the work of his particular office does not and cannot occupy his whole time. This has been the case with the Superintendant of Excise. As I have said before, he has been entrusted with a work which a Deputy Collector could easily do by devoting few hours a week. The lot of the Superintendent of Excise is very happy. All that he is required to do——

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: May I again point out that the item under discussion comes under the head of administrative establishment and not the district establishment?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You must confine your discussion simply to the question before the House.

Maulvi SHAH MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURI: I was only showing what the position was.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: But what you are speaking does not concern the present item.

Maulvi SHAH MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURI: I was trying to show the reason for which I want this reduction.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: But the question is one of establishment and not of Superintendents.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I am afraid you are labouring under a misapprehension. The item which you are tackling appears at page 39, namely, other Gazetted Officers—Rs. 43,400. At page 41 of the Book you

will find the head " transferred Sudder Establishment—Rs. 1,03,800." Your amendment refers to the item at page 39 but what you are dealing with is mentioned in page 41. The item in page 39 refers to " Superintendence " and not to Superintendents of Excise which is on page 41.

Maulvi SHAH MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURI: I beg to withdraw my amendment.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Maulvi SHAH MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURI: I beg to withdraw the following amendment standing in my name:—

" That the demand under head ' 6A.—Superintendence ' be reduced to the extent of the pay of clerks."

By the leave of the Council, the motion was withdrawn.

Maulvi SHAH MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURI: I beg leave of the Council to withdraw the next amendment standing in my name.

The following amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

" That the demand under head ' 6A.—Servants ' be reduced to the extent of the pay of the servants."

Maulvi SHAH MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURI: I beg leave of the Council to withdraw the next amendment standing in my name.

The following amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

" That the demand under head ' 6A.—Superintendence—Allowances ' be reduced to the extent of the travelling allowances."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ being absent, the following amendment, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

" That the demand for Rs. 20,000 under head ' Superintendence—Travelling allowance ' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Babu FANINDRA LAL DE being absent, the following amendment standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

" That the demand for Rs. 20,000 under head ' 6A.—Superintendence —Travelling allowances ' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA being absent, the following amendment, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

" That the demand under ' Superintendence—Hill allowance ' be refused."

Babu FANINDRA LAL DE being absent, the following amendment, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

" That the demand for Rs. 3,750 under ' 6A.—Superintendence—House Rent and other allowances ' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move " that the demand for Rs. 23,950 under head' 6A.—Allowance ' be reduced to Rs. 12,000."

I am glad that at last I have got an opportunity which I did not get on the last occasion. I find that I have to pay a penalty for including all the allowances within my motion. I take the lesson and shall try to be more careful on the next occasion, if I happen to be present during the next year's budget discussion.

This sum includes Rs. 200 as hill allowance, Rs. 3,750 as house allowance, etc. (against Rs. 1,600 as originally estimated for 1921-22, and Rs. 20,000 as travelling allowance (against Rs. 15,000 as originally estimated for 1920-21 and Rs. 14,947, actuals for 1919-20).

Only the other day, we had an assurance in this Council from the Finance Member that the utmost possible economy had been effected in the Budget and that only the barest necessity had been provided for. I am not one of those who would accuse the Finance Member of being negligent of the needs of the transferred side or in any way partial to those of the reserved side, but at the same time, I am disposed to ask the gentlemen who are responsible for framing the Budget to tell us how this theory which has been so eloquently enunciated in this Council has been given effect to in this matter. I can find no earthly reason for providing hill allowances for these officers, namely, 1 Commissioner of Excise, and 5 other Excise officers. If any of them have to visit Darjeeling on inspection work or any other work, they can easily do so on the strength of their travelling allowance, but I fail to understand as to why provision has been separately made for them under " hill allowances." I am at a loss to find out what justification there could be for this provision for house allowance. Only the other day, I put a few questions to the Hon'ble the Finance Member and he replied that Government had under consideration a system of increasing the house allowance and that as soon as it was ready for adoption it would be placed before the Council. I asked whether before its final adoption the scheme would be laid before the Council; but I was disappointed in the answer I received. I was told that when the scheme was adopted the Council would get all the information. I submit in this connection that it will be unfair and unjust to the Council if you do not place the scheme before you finally adopt it. It would be then useless to lay it before us for consideration——

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. E. Spry): May I point out that the item of house rent which appears in the Budget under the head " allowances " at page 39 has nothing whatever to do with the scheme of house allowance which has been referred to by the Hon'ble Finance Member in reply to a question of Dr. Haridhan Dutt. It is the Calcutta House Allowance Scheme which has absolutely nothing to do with the point before us.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Although I could not catch the words of Mr. Spry, I am sorry if I was wrong. The only point that

remains ll upon is the fact that with the strictest economy and by the careful avoidance of unnecessary journeys travelling allowance can be reduced at least to 50 per cent. At the beginning of the discussion to-day, we had heard much about travelling allowance; so I do not like to take up the time of the Council by repeating those things. But I am one of those who believe that by a judicious curtailment of unnecessary journeys it is quite possible to maintain the efficiency of the Excise Department, so I would ask the Council to reduce the grant from Rs. 23,950 to Rs. 12,000.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The provision of Rs. 20,000 for travelling allowances covers the travelling allowances of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners of Excise and the Inspector of the Railway Detective Staff. The duties of these officers involve much touring as they are responsible for supervising the work of the officers subordinate to them throughout the province. Any reduction in touring means therefore loss of efficiency. The estimated expenditure is actually Rs. 7,200 less than the actuals for 1920-21 and Rs. 12,000 less than the estimate for the current year. I may remind the Council that there is likely to be a large increase in the near future in railway fares. It is therefore certain that a provision based on past actuals will not be excessive.

As regards the suggestion which has been made to-day that certain officers make unnecessary journeys and travel in a lower class than they draw allowance for, the Council will, I think, admit that Government cannot control the journeys of individual officers. But I undertake to instruct the Commissioner of Excise to exercise a careful scrutiny over travelling allowance bills and to instruct controlling officers subordinate to him to do the same with a view to checking any officers who may abuse the rules.

As regards the provision for hill allowance, I may point out that apart from any question of the so-called exodus, the Excise Commissioner as a part of his duties has to visit Darjeeling to inspect the excise work of that district. The tour clerk and orderlies who accompany him are entitled to hill allowances during his stay there and provision for this is essential. I may perhaps explain that the Commissioner of Excise does not receive any special hill allowance.

The sum of Rs. 3,750 includes the local allowance of Rs. 250 a month and the Calcutta House allowance to which the Excise Commissioner is entitled under the rules. The provision cannot be reduced without gross injustice to that officer. This is not a new allowance. It has nothing to do with the scheme to which Dr. Dutt referred.

I ask the Council to reject this motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I move "that the total demand for Rs. 2,24,067 under head '6A.—Superintendence,' be reduced to Rs. 1,70,000 by reduction of establishment and other charges."

The actuals for the year 1920-21 amounted to Rs. 2,04,074. In the current year the original budget provision was Rs. 1,95,000 and the revised estimate amounted to Rs. 2,01,000. The increase proposed is incomprehensible. The fact that the income under this head has fallen from Rs. 1,82,80,000 to Rs. 1,81,00,000, *vide* Revised Estimates, is sufficient justification for reduction of establishment as the work of the department is bound to decrease. It will, therefore, be safe to provide only Rs. 20,000. As I am not in possession of details, and it is not possible for any one who is not in direct touch with the department to work out the details on a perusal of the statement, I am afraid I cannot specifically mention the particular items on each of which the reduction should be made, but I am sure that, if the reduction proposed be accepted, the department will be able to adjust the amount without any trouble.

The number of inspectors and clerks is 31 for whom a sum of Rs. 31,620 is budgeted. If the work of the inspectors is confined to detection of smuggling and other offences, it may very well be entrusted to the detective department of the Police and a considerable saving may be effected by this means.

With these few remarks, I beg to commend my motion to the Council.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: In reply to a motion for a lump reduction of this kind, I can only say that the Excise estimates have been framed with the strictest economy. We are not asking for any increase of staff. We merely ask for sufficient money to pay the existing staff and to meet incidental charges, such as travelling allowances and contingencies, necessary to maintain the department's efficiency in its present state. I would remind the Council that on its recommendation we have introduced a number of measures aiming at the restriction of consumption and that the vigilance and efficiency of the Excise officers must be maintained if these are to have their full effect. The increase over last year's estimate is chiefly due to the increase of pay for officers of the Excise Department for which the Council voted money last year. I therefore ask the Council to reject this motion for a lump reduction.

The motion was then put and lost.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 36,800 under head '6B.—Allowances' be reduced to Rs. 18,400."

It has been found possible in Bombay by drawing the attention of all the heads of department to the necessity of practising the utmost economy, by avoiding all non-essential expenses by officers, to reduce the current year's total charges for travelling materially, and if here, in

Bengal, we want to effect economy—and if we seriously want to do so—we must take drastic measures in keeping down these perquisites in addition to their pay. I purposely use the word " perquisite, " as it is not denied here that a portion of the travelling expenses is now taken as part of the pay and is enjoyed as such. We should remember that the pay of the officers concerned in this department has been considerably increased of late. The demand for Rs. 36,800 is made up of Rs. 800 as house allowance (as against Rs. 600 estimated for 1921-22) and Rs. 36,000 as travelling allowance for the Collector of Calcutta and his deputy and sub-deputy together with 5 Superintendents and 37 Inspectors. All these officers are included under the Presidency Establishment and their main work is confined to Calcutta and its suburbs—included in most cases within the five-mile radius. I believe that no officer under the ordinary rules is entitled to, nor can he draw, any travelling allowance unless he has to go beyond the five-mile official head-quarters limit. In these circumstances, I am rather surprised at the liberal sum of money that has been provided by way of travelling allowances. The travelling allowance has been estimated at Rs. 36,000 as against Rs. 34,000 estimated for 1921-22, Rs. 33,787 actuals for 1920-21 as against Rs. 25,500 as budgeted for 1920-21. The Council must have noticed the tendency to increase expenditure and unless this is checked, I am afraid it will go on increasing. My proposal therefore is to cut down the house allowance to the actuals of 1919-20 and the estimates for 1920-21 and 1921-22, that is to Rs. 600 and to reduce the vote for travelling allowances to Rs. 17,800.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: This item of Rs. 36,800 includes the conveyance allowance of Superintendents, Inspectors and Sub-inspectors of Excise in Calcutta and also a provision for ordinary travelling allowance. Much of the time of these officers is taken up in touring, but most of their journeys are made within a limit of five miles from headquarters. They are, therefore, entitled to no travelling allowance for these journeys, but they are required to keep a conveyance or spend money on *gharry* hire and tram fares. To meet the expenditure involved in this, conveyance allowances are sanctioned. The whole provision is required to meet sanctioned allowances and travelling allowance under the ordinary rules. Any diminution in the activity of these officers, and reduction in the amount of travelling they do, will result in an increase in malpractices and evasion of the Excise laws. At the present time, we are endeavouring to enforce the law and rules as strictly as possible with a view to reducing consumption. The estimate has been framed on the most conservative basis, and is, in fact, Rs. 4,600 less than the actual expenditure in 1920-21. I repeat my undertaking to instruct controlling officers to exercise strict scrutiny over travelling allowances and to see that the rules are not abused. I ask the Council to reject the motion and vote the provision in full.

The motion was then put and lost.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I move "that the demand for Rs. 65,000 for rewards under '6B.—Inspection and Prevention,' be reduced by Rs. 15,000."

The revenue under "Excise" has decreased this year and that is mainly due to economic and political reasons. Smuggling and other illegal activities, I believe, have not increased to be responsible for this diminishing return. The pay of the officers of this department has also improved of late and so there is no justification for increased provision for rewards. I therefore move that this grant be reduced by Rs. 15,000.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: These rewards are granted for the detection of excise offences especially opium smuggling and cocaine smuggling in Calcutta. Any reduction of the estimate, which is based on past actuals, will mean a diminution in the efficiency of the detective work of the department and an increase in smuggling. An increase in smuggling means an increase in uncontrolled consumption and that, Sir, I submit is a greater evil even than an increase in controlled consumption. It also means a decrease in revenue. Experience has shown in every country and not in India alone that liberal rewards are the only means of effectively checking serious excise offences. I may explain that large sums are paid annually to outsiders who furnish the officers of the department with information and other help. The department would be deprived of this outside assistance unless liberal rewards were given. I therefore ask the Council to reject this motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following amendment, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 10,000 under '6C.—District Executive Establishment—Allowances' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: I beg leave of the Council to withdraw my amendment.

The following amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the sum of Rs. 40,608, which it is proposed to grant under head 'Inspection and Prevention—Steam Launch and boat establishment' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—I move "that the demand for Rs. 1,80,000 under '6C.—District Executive Establishment—Allowances (transferred),' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

It appears that the majority of the members of this House are in favour of my motion. For the year 1920-21, the grant under this head

was Rs. 1,72,289; for the year 1921-22, it was Rs. 1,75,000; and for the year under discussion, *i.e.*, 1922-23, it has been provided for Rs. 1,80,000. Sir, having regard to the disease of deficit, I beg to move for the curtailment of Rs. 10,000, although Rs. 1,00,000 has been shown in the List of Business. I do this on the basis of the procedure adopted in the Imperial Legislative Assembly, where curtailments have been effected in certain cases of similar nature at the rate of 10 per cent.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: This item of Rs. 1,80,000 represents the travelling allowances of Superintendents, Inspectors, Sub-inspectors, petty officers and peons of all districts except Calcutta and Darjeeling. It will be clear that a lump reduction of one lakh will mean that officers must reduce their touring by more than a half. The work of these officers lies chiefly out in the district. They have to tour not merely to supervise the work of their subordinates and to investigate information of offences but to visit all the liquor shops within their jurisdiction both for inspection and in the way of surprise visits to see that the rules about the hours for opening and closing, the strength of liquor, etc., are observed. Any reduction in touring will involve an immediate increase in the number of excise offences and will make it impossible to enforce the measures which Government is taking to check consumption. I may point out that the provision is the same as in the revised estimates for the current year. I therefore ask the Council to reject this motion and to vote the full provision. As I have already said, I undertake to instruct controlling officers to scrutinize carefully the travelling allowance bills of officers subordinate to them and to see that the rules are not abused.

The motion was then put and lost.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 1,85,000 under head 'C.—Inspection and Prevention—Allowances' be reduced to Rs. 95,000."

I find the same difficulty here that I experienced previously, but with your permission, Sir, I would like to deal with the subject as briefly as I can.

I find that the demand for grant under item No. 37 is rather a complicated one owing to the splitting up of the items under reserved and transferred heads and for showing the estimates in different places. I would draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the whole of the amount is for the Sudder Establishment. By Sudder Establishment we understand that the whole establishment is located within the city of Calcutta. I do not consider it reasonable to propose any reduction under the head "reserved establishment" as, with the proposed increase of salt duty by the Government of India, perhaps more vigilance will now be necessary in that department; but under the transferred establishment the matter is totally different. It is a notorious

fact that it is difficult to maintain revenue owing to the strong temperance movement that is now going on throughout the province of Bengal which is making the ordinary people even to cut down their palm trees and date trees to give up the drinking habit. I know the police force is often requisitioned to prevent temperance picketing but the cost for that has been met by the proposal to increase the police force under the demand for police. Superintendents and Inspectors cannot help us in this matter by this increased travelling allowance. The total expenditure for travelling under this head in 1919-20 was only Rs. 1,77,566 and the house allowance during the period was only Rs. 6,244. In the present budget, the total travelling allowance is estimated at Rs. 1,90,000 (Rs. 10,000 for Reserved and Rs. 1,80,000 for Transferred establishments respectively) and Rs 6,300 (Rs. 1,300 for Reserved and Rs. 5,000 for Transferred establishments respectively). I have not touched the proposals for the reserved establishment. My proposal is only to reduce the house allowance, etc., from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 4,000 (budget estimate for 1921-22) and to reduce the demand for Rs. 1,80,000 for the travelling of 23 Superintendents and 223 Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors to Rs. 94,000.

The travelling allowance is one of those items in which expenditure can be curtailed if a department really wants to do so.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I have already explained the necessity for Rs. 1,80,000, that is the same sum as last year out of the total sum of Rs. 1,85,000 proposed to be reduced in replying to the last motion.

The balance of Rs. 5,000 is required to pay the sanctioned allowances of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and subordinate officials stationed in the Terai and the Sunderbans. The omission of this provision would be a breach of faith and the officers who are entitled to the allowances would have a legitimate grievance. Without these allowances, it would be difficult to get officers to serve in unhealthy and out-of-the-way places like the Terai and the Sunderbans, and I ask the Council to reject this motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was, by leave of the Council withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 2,000 under the heading '6D.—Distilleries—Travelling allowance' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

In the absence of the members, the following amendments were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 90,000 for rewards under Excise be reduced to Rs. 83,000."

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: "That the demand of Rs. 14,80,000 under the head '6—Excise' be reduced by 50 per cent. of the sum which it is proposed to provide for granting increments of pay to Excise officers."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 14,80,000 under the head '6.—Excise' be reduced by the amount of the provision for new posts of Inspectors of Excise."

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 15,30,000 for expenditure under the head "6.—Excise" was then put and agreed to.

7.—Stamps.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I move "that a sum of Rs. 13,18,000 be granted for an expenditure under the head '7.—Stamps.'"

This sum includes Rs. 8,90,000 on account of the adjustment of the additional stamp duty levied for payment to the Calcutta Improvement Trust. The other items are practically the same as they were for last year except on account of stamps supplied from Central stores, which is now provided for in the High Commissioner's budget.

The motion was put and agreed to.

8.—Forests.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I move "that a sum of Rs. 8,78,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '8.—Forests.'"

As to tide over the financial crisis more money is wanted, it is hoped the Council will not look at the ways and means of the Forest Department in a spirit of retrenchment, inasmuch as it is a revenue-producing department and all expenditure is more or less remunerative.

In view of the difference between the original and revised estimates in the Budget for 1921-22, a few words of explanation may be necessary. The expenditure on the two main heads are Conservancy and Works, and Establishment. They may be separately considered. For Conservancy and Works in the Budget for 1921-22, the amount is Rs. 8,98,000; in the revised Budget for 1921-22, it is Rs. 8,13,000; and the Budget for 1922-23, it is Rs. 0,61,000. The difference between the original Budget and the revised Budget for 1921-22 is Rs. 85,000 under this head. A major portion of this difference amounting to half a lakh is for the abandonment of the "Mahaldram Ropeway Scheme" on the advice of the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India who suggested that the most practical method of extraction of forest produce would be to make cart roads and have portable saw-mills.

In view of the financial stringency, the estimates of expenditure in 1922-23 have been made as low as possible. They are less than last year's by more than Rs. 2½ lakhs. Only the obligatory items of expenditure have been retained including Rs. 60,000 for Kheddah operations, an entirely remunerative work.

I now turn to establishment. The Budget for the current year 1922-22 was Rs. 6,51,000; the revised figure was Rs. 5,50,000 while the Budget for 1922-23 is Rs. 6,10,000. The difference between the Budget for 1921-22 and the revised Budget is mainly due to savings on account of the pay of Mr. J. A. L. Baker, Deputy Conservator of Forests, who has been transferred to Burma, and to the employment of a smaller number of officers than the sanctioned cadre. The difference between the revised Budget for 1921-22 and the Budget for 1922-23 is due to the inclusion of the amount of increment that will be earned by the staff for whom time-scale pay has been sanctioned, and the provision for four Assistant Conservators of Forests recruited by the Secretary of State and posted to Bengal. They all belong to the Imperial Service. Three of them have already joined and the fourth officer is also expected shortly. The amount also includes provision for revision of pay of ministerial officers in the Forest Department. In the present year the amount provided is Rs. 22,99,000, the revised Budget estimate is Rs. 19,94,000 and in the Budget for 1922-23 the amount is Rs. 21,29,000. The fall in revenue, as compared with the sanctioned Budget estimate for 1921-22, is partly due to smaller revenue from departmental timber operations that are being carried on by the Forest Department at Kalimpong, Chittagong Hill Tracts and Kurseong and Buxa Divisions, than was originally estimated, the smaller profits from Khedda operations, and a fall in the sale of timeber, especially in the Sundarbans.

The fall in revenue would have been larger but for the departmental extraction of charcoal in larger quantities in Darjeeling and other divisions, and larger sales of fuel and bamboos. The Budget for 1922-23 is, however, fixed at Rs. 21,29,000 in the hope that the demand for raw material by consumers and purchasers will be maintained, and that there will be a larger demand for charcoal and fuel, and that more revenue would be available next year from departmental timber operations.

To explain briefly the financial aspect of forest exploitation in Bengal, the attention of the Council may be drawn to the following lines in the Government Resolution on the last report on the Forest Administration in Bengal:—

His Excellency in Council is inclined to think that there is no ground for pessimism. No decrease in the gross revenue is to be feared, for the revenue derived from timber and other produce removed by Government agency in the nine months almost equals that of the preceding twelve, whilst the revenue from the produce removed by consumers or purchasers in the nine months is more than proportionate. On the expenditure side, a comparative increase in the cost of extraction of produce and of establishment reflects the general rise in wages and salaries. A large

part of the increased expenditure, however, is due to more money being spent on productive items such as livestock, stores, tools and plant, communications and buildings, expenditure on which is essential if the resources of the forests are to be developed, and is all the more necessary because the exigencies of the war prevented adequate expenditure on these items in recent years. An interesting example of this is furnished by the history of plantations. From 1870, when the reservation of forests began, till 1910, the forests were managed on the assumption that nature would replace what man took. But by 1910, it became only too clear that this was not so, and that valuable timber was being replaced by comparatively worthless trees. The Forest Department devoted its attention to the best way of replacing what was taken out. The cost of plantations rose from Rs. 7,000 in 1913-14 to Rs. 89,000 in 1919-20, but it may now be said that the Forest Department are replacing as much and more than they are taking out, and that the future of the forests is assured.' To quote from an interesting note on the finances of the Forest Department written by Mr. Gent, Officiating Conservator of Forests, the rule of thumb in forestry is that, of the gross revenue taken from the forest, 40 per cent. may be regarded as net revenue. The remaining 60 per cent. should be spent and put back into the forests in works of development and upkeep.

From this it will be clear to this Council that the amount that we ask for the development of forests is a legitimate figure.

In the absence of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri, the following amendment, standing in his name, was deemed to have been withdrawn:—

"That the sum of Rs. 4,03,000 which it is proposed to grant under head '8.—Forests—B—Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 40,000."

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 8,70,000 for expenditure under the head "8.—Forests" was then put and agreed to.

9.—Registration.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): I move "that a sum of Rs. 17,72,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '9.—Registration.'"

It will be observed that the budget estimates for 1921-22 amounted to Rs. 15,14,000; when the estimates were revised in October, 1921, in view of the financial stringency, the revised estimate stood at Rs. 15,05,000. The estimates for 1922-23, which are now before the Council, amount to Rs. 16,65,000. The increases occur mainly under the following heads:—

Temporary establishment—Rs. 2,20,000 as against Rs. 1,86,900 in 1921-22. It will be observed that the actuals for 1921-22 amounted to Rs. 1,93,749 and the provision made in 1921-22 proved quite inadequate. As a matter of fact, as soon as it was observed in the Secretariat that the provision was likely to be exceeded, strict orders were issued to the District Registrars informing them that in view of the financial stringency, every possible economy must be observed in connection with temporary establishments, even at the risk of causing public inconvenience. I may mention, in this connection for the information of the House, that the temporary establishment is employed for the purpose of copying documents for registration into the registers maintained in each office, and

that any delay in this part of the office work causes public inconvenience, since with an inadequate staff, documents rapidly accumulate, there is great difficulty in picking up arrears, and there must be considerable delay in the return of documents if the work is not kept up to date. As the volume of work varies from time to time according to the season of the year and economic conditions —thus when there is economic stress, transfers of property and consequently registrations increase—it would obviously not be economical to employ a large permanent staff which would be able to cope expeditiously with the work at any particular moment. We have two alternatives, *viz.*, either to employ a large permanent staff or to appoint these temporary men. If we employ a large permanent staff to cope with the work when it is heavy, when the work slackens down these men will not have enough work to do. So what is done in the registration office is this: The District Registrar appoints men temporarily when the work is heavy, and these men are paid at certain rates, and the more work a man does, the more money he earns. This system saves a good deal in pension and other charges for himself and for the Government, so it is not necessary to have a large permanent establishment. The practice is, therefore, for each District Registrar to sanction the employment of temporary staff as the volume of work increases at any given moment, and arrears begin to accumulate. The result of the orders issued by Government was that a storm of protest was speedily received from the District Registrars, along with some complaints from the public. The reduction of the temporary establishment had the effect of causing arrears to accumulate at once in all offices, with the result that serious delays in the registration of documents began to occur. There was obviously little advantage in holding up this work if a proportionately greater temporary establishment was to be employed in the near future to make good the arrears which had piled up, and it was accordingly decided to allow District Registrars again to use their discretion in the employment of temporary staff instead of requiring them to apply in each case for Government sanction, although it was impressed strongly on them that the employment of this establishment must be carefully watched in order to see that it did not exceed the requirements of the situation. The expenditure incurred in the current year has been carefully considered and I am satisfied that it is unsafe to make a smaller provision than Rs. 2,20,000 under this head. The efficiency of the Registration Department depends mainly on the punctuality with which its work is carried on, and any considerable curtailment of the temporary establishment must seriously inconvenience the general public. The provision of Rs. 2,20,000 is, of course, like most budgeting, a guess based on the actuals of previous years. But I do not think that it will be possible to reduce the provision even by Rs. 25,000. I trust, therefore, that the Council will see that it will not be right to reduce the temporary staff.

The next main item responsible for the increase of the estimates is on account of the revision of pay of the ministerial establishment in accordance with the Salaries Committee's report. It will be seen that we have made provision under this head for Rs. 2,22,000 which raises ministerial and menial establishment charges, including temporary establishment, to nearly Rs. 8,75,000, against something less than Rs. 6,75,000 in the estimate of 1921-22.

It will be within the recollection of this House that the McAlpin Committee submitted certain proposals; and this increased estimate is the result of the recommendations of that Committee.

Therefore, I trust the House will understand the necessity of maintaining the temporary establishment, and the reason why it appears to be at a fairly high figure. I do not think I need trouble the House any more, so I formally move for this demand.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I understand that the amendment, standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, will be moved by Babu Surendra Nath Mallik.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: On behalf of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, I move "that the demand of Rs. 15,600 for Inspector-General of Registration, be reduced by half."

I beg to draw the attention of the House to one point regarding this question of the Inspector-General of Registration. To my mind, and I believe those of my countrymen who have thought over this matter, this post of Inspector-General is perfectly superfluous, and there is no need to appoint a man to hold that post. I venture to suggest that this post ought to be amalgamated with some other, viz., the Commissioner of Excise. In Bihar they have already done that, and there is no reason why we should not do the same here, and the particular reason is that the Registration Department in each district is directly under the District Magistrate who is also the District Registrar. They are very efficient men, there cannot be any question about that; therefore, if you put the Inspector-General at the top with I.C.S. men below him, it is perfectly useless and a mere waste of money. A Deputy Magistrate ordinarily holds this appointment, and, in fact, has been holding it for the last 20 years or so, and by blessing him with the grand name of Inspector-General, you cannot help the situation at all. The I. C. S. man of the district ordinarily copes with all the work that is necessary, and a certain amount of inspection may be required, but this might be done by some other officer like the Commissioner of Excise. It is high time we should do away with this post altogether. This is a post for earning a large amount of travelling allowance, but doing very little; practically he has got nothing to do; the District Magistrate does all the district work; he simply goes to the district, earns his travelling allowance and comes back.

There is another thing which strengthens my argument. The Inspector-General of Registration is an *ex-officio* member of the Indian Legislative Assembly. For six months in the year he is moving between Simla and Delhi and his work is done by his Personal Assistant. So it is clear that even in his absence his work is carried on. Then where is the necessity for maintaining this appointment? The post is held by an Indian, and I may be hurting a brother Indian, but whether he is an Indian or a European, there is no question. Waste is waste, and I think the time has come, having regard to our present financial position, that we should make this retrenchment. We are all crying hoarse over retrenchment, and here is an opportunity of this which will help us. Here is a transferred subject, and we can very well ask the Hon'ble Minister also to help us by giving us so many thousands to apply to some other work in some other department. I do not see why he should not see eye to eye with us. I consider that this post of Inspector-General is perfectly superfluous With these words I put this motion, because being in very close touch with the mufassal, I know that this is a superfluous post and should be done away with.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I am afraid my friend Babu Surendra Nath Mallik who has taken the place of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has put forward arguments under a misapprehension. Perhaps Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, had he been here to move his own motion, would have put forward something else. His first argument is that the Inspector-General of Registration is an *ex-officio* member of the Council of State; that is not so. He is a nominated member of that Council just as other officers of this Government, who are nominated to represent this Government. My friend seems to think that when he is away in connection with his duties on the Council of State, his work is left to take care of itself. Nothing of the kind. When he is away another gentleman is appointed to officiate for him. In fact, the position is one of great importance. As the members are aware, the revenues of the Registration Department amount to Rs. 25 to Rs. 28 lakhs and there are about 400 sub-registration offices all over the province with a large number of sub-registrars and a larger clerical staff. All these require inspection and supervision. It is true that in many districts the District Magistrate as District Registrar is in charge of all the registration offices in his district, but as everyone knows the District Magistrate has various duties to perform and beyond keeping nominal control, as the head of the district, it is not possible for him to go into details. Therefore, the office of the Inspector-General of Registration is by no means a sinecure. It is rather an office of great importance. The revenues of the province and the good administration of very many departments in which the public are very intimately concerned depend upon the efficient administration of this Department. I do not think I need detain the House much longer. If my friend really thinks that the office

is a sinecure, and if before he brought this motion to the Council, he had approached me, I would have given him ample material to show that it is a very important office, and past experience has shown that it is not a sinecure.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: May I say a word or two, Sir, on this subject?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Yes, you may.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I think mine is the last word on the subject.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You will also get a chance of replying after he has spoken.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I am speaking generally on the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Mitter. With reference to this particular motion, so far as I have been able to gather from the observations of the Minister, when he says that although this gentleman is away to the Council of State, another gentleman is appointed, and therefore the work does not suffer, may I ask—Is it not double the cost to entertain two incumbents for this post, one at Simla or Delhi, and another here? I do not think it is necessary to maintain two incumbents for the same appointment. I do not know what work he has to do on behalf of Bengal, and what interest he has to protect in the Council of State so far as the Registration Department is concerned. This is a different matter altogether. Certainly the Hon'ble the Minister's reply is very cogent, and we listen with great attention to whatever observation he makes in this House, but I am sorry that on the present occasion his arguments are not quite convincing.

Another point in this connection is that the Hon'ble Minister has stated that the cost of the establishment has increased on account of the employment of temporary establishment——

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You cannot discuss that matter now.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I want to say one word. I have nothing to do with the appointment of this gentleman as a nominated member of the Council of State. He was nominated, and as a Government servant he was bound to go just as any other Government servant would have had to do, had the nomination fallen on him. If he did not go, someone else would have to go. He is paid, but I do not know the details; the position is that if he falls ill somebody else will have to officiate for him, and that some one would draw an officiating salary. So in the same way when he is away, someone else acts for him and draws the officiating salary. The case would have been similar if any other Government servant had been sent in his place. If the Council has any complaint about the system of nominating Government servants to the Council of State that is a different matter; if you require information

about this, I can give it to you, but under the orders of Government, he has to go to Simla or Delhi as a nominated member of the Council of State. I have to see to the efficient administration of the Registration Department, and when this gentleman is away, I have to appoint someone to officiate for him. So there is no question of double cost; as a matter of fact the cost would have been the same if another gentleman was sent in his place. His nomination is purely accidental.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: As I cannot understand the Hon'ble Minister's logic, may I ask for some information? Is it not a fact that this officer is sent to Simla because he holds a sinecure appointment?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: No, it is not a fact.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Is his salary paid by the Government of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I do not think it is fair on the part of the member to put such a question.

The motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Sir Ashutosh.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.

NOES.

Ali, Maulvi Syed Mukseod.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamad.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Biss, Mr. E. E.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Deare, Lieutenant-Colonel S. H.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Farequl, Mr. K. C. M.
French, Mr. F. C.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khaitan, Babu Devi Prosad.
Khan, Mr Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Salam, Khan Bahadur Abdus.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 21 and the Noes 37, the motion was lost.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: It will appear from several amendments of which I have given notice, that I have taken up specially the question of temporary establishment. In view, however, of the explanation which the Hon'ble the Minister has given, I would ask for the withdrawal of my amendment. One thing, however, I would like to mention to the House and it is this: I understand that this demand in the Registration Department includes a sum for copyists, and having some knowledge of the work which these copyists do and the type of documents they issue, I wish to bring to the notice of the Council the fact that they are paid by the volume of work, the quality of work being not considered.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Do you wish to withdraw your amendment?

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: Yes; but in doing so, I want to bring this matter to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: If you withdraw the motion you cannot make a speech.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I have no objection if the Rai Bahadur makes a suggestion with your permission.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I would like that these copyists should do their work more carefully in future so that the documents might be readable and that the heads of the copying departments be instructed to check and examine the copies issued from time to time.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

It was as follows:—That the demand for Rs. 3,000 under the heading "9A.—Superintendence—Temporary Establishment" be refused.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I move "that the demand for Rs. 10,000 under '9A.—Superintendence—Travelling allowance,' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

The reduction, I propose in this item, is for the amount provided for travelling charges of the Inspector-General or of any of his assistants to the hills. I intend to move in due course that the hill exodus of the authorities of this department be not supported; and this amendment is but a corollary to that. In the absence of accurate information, I move that the amount be reduced by a sum of Rs. 2,000.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I can assure Babu Fanindralal De that the amount of Rs. 10,000 has nothing to do with the hill exodus. This amount is for the travelling allowance not only of the Inspector-General of Registration but also of the three Inspectors of Registration and the Inspector of Muhammadan Registration who have to tour all over the province consisting of 25 districts. I can also tell the mover that if the Inspector-General goes to Darjeeling, he does not draw any hill allowance.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: May I supplement what the Hon'ble Mr. Mitter has said by making a general statement that all Heads of Departments who go to Darjeeling go there at their own expense? They receive no travelling allowance.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Are the charges for saloon carriages paid for them by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: They get no saloon carriages; they travel in ordinary carriages at their own expense. May I again state the position that this sum does not provide for the journeys of the Inspector-General to Darjeeling: it may include the provision for a clerk or two whom he takes up there, but there is no provision for the Inspector-General himself. The hill allowances are also drawn only by clerks and chaprassis and are not drawn by Heads of Departments.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendment was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: "That the demand for hill allowance under '9A.—Superintendence,' be refused."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I do not like to deprive the poor clerks of the hill allowances. I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,500 under '9A.—Superintendence House rent and other allowances,' be reduced by Rs. 500."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur and Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 2,20,000 under the heading '9B.—District Charges—Temporary Establishment' be reduced to Rs. 1,75,000."

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: "That the sum of Rs. 2,20,000 which it is proposed to grant under head 'District Charges—Temporary Establishment,' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur and Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 28,900 under the heading '9 B. District Charges—Travelling Allowance' be reduced to Rs. 20,000."

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY and Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 72,000 under the heading '9B.—District Charges—Contract Contingencies,' be reduced to Rs. 60,000."

Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 17,72,000 under head '9.—Registration,' be reduced by Rs. 1,20,000."

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: I move " that the demand for Rs. 17,78,000 be reduced by Rs. 5."

I have brought this motion in order to ventilate a deep-felt grievance the Namasudra community have in the matter of appointments in the Registration Department. There were about 20 candidates for sub-registrarships last year and three of them secured nomination from the District Magistrate, but of these three one was nominated by the Commissioner. Even that gentleman was refused an appointment.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Will you be able to finish by 6-15 o'clock?

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: I shall take only a minute more. The Hon'ble the Minister said that he was deeply sympathetic with the case of the backward community. Therefore I do not simply understand this action on the part of the Minister. I do not wish to take up more time, but I hope that this profession of sympathy will be translated into action. That is all I have to say in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: At first I did not understand the object of this motion. Now that Babu Nirode Behary Mullick has explained it, I understand what his object is. It is, however, difficult for me to say anything off-hand. If he had put his motion in more plain words, I would have furnished him with full materials. For the moment, without notice, I cannot say even whether we have appointed any member of the backward classes. I can tell him that I am fully alive to the interests of the backward community and if any suitable candidates come forward, I shall take their cases duly into consideration. I think I could have given him more information if he had put the motion in a more specific form. If I remember aright, I think I appointed a member of that class this year.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Do you want to press your motion?

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: I wanted to bring the grievance to the notice of the Government. I beg leave to withdraw it.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 17,72,000 for expenditure under head " 9.—Registration " was then put and agreed to.

At this stage the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournment.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, it has been represented to me that it would be very inconvenient to many of the members if the Council were held at 10-30 A.M. on Tuesday, the 21st March, *i.e.*, immediately after the photograph at Government House, and I have

been requested that it would be very convenient if the Council be held from 2-30 to 4-30 P.M. I have acceded to that request.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I move "that a sum of Rs. 11,21,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '15.—Irrigation—other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue.'"

The works under this head for which a grant is asked are—

The Eden Canal,
Orissa Coast Canal,
Nadia Rivers,
Gaighata and Buxi Khal,
Magra Hat Drainage Project,
Embankments including flood remedial measures,
River training, including Belyadhari spill operations.

The Eden Canal is a small work principally intended to supply drinking water in the Hooghly and Burdwan districts. In 1861-62, there was a severe epidemic of fever which was attributed to stagnant water and insanitary conditions and want of pure drinking water. The canal was completed and opened by Sir Ashley Eden in 1881.

Some irrigation is carried out from it and, in 1892-93, 71,330 acres were irrigated but the average is only about 23,000 acres.

The reason of this is that there are no proper head works for holding up the river and at present sand dams have to be erected yearly.

In case of untimely flood these sand dams are carried away and irrigation is therefore precarious.

Later on, when the Damodar Canal is constructed, a better supply will be insured, but till then the present unsatisfactory arrangement must continue to be made.

The canal was never meant to be a business undertaking, but only to give relief, and the rates charged are very small owing to the uncertainty of the water-supply. For these reasons the canal has to be financed from public funds.

The Orissa Coast Canal is a continuation of the Hijli Tidal Canal. It runs from Baitghur to Orissa crossing many rivers on the way. In this province we are only concerned with it up to nine miles from the Subarnarekha river. The Hijli Tidal part of the Canal was finished in 1873 and the Orissa Coast Canal part in 1888. It is purely for navigation and was intended for carrying enormous supplies of food in times of famine. At the time it was first built, it was the only means of through traffic from Calcutta to Orissa, but since the Bengal-Nagpur Railway was built, it has decreased in importance and is used only for local traffic. Besides the traffic, the canal serves as a drainage channel and has been very useful in saving crops from inundation over a large area. The Right Hon'ble Lord Sinha of Bihar and Orissa made extensive inquiries as to

whether the canal should not be abandoned as it does not pay. The result of his inquiry was that it should continue to be kept up—

(*1*) as a means of inland water communication between Calcutta and Orissa,

(*2*) as a means of local communication,

(*3*) as a means of drainage.

This applies equally to the protion within Bengal.

The work connected with the Nadia Rivers system consists of the training by means of bandals of—

(*1*) river Bhagirathi up to Nadia;

(*2*) Bhairab-Jalangi from entrance to Nadia;

(*3*) Mathabhanga from entrance to junction with the Hooghly, and

(*4*) Hooghly from Nadia to Mathabhanga junction.

The object is to maintain by scouring shoals a sufficient depth of water for boat traffic, of improving the sanitary conditions of the country, and of conserving the headwaters of the river Hooghly.

It is for these items, Sir, that I ask for the demand of Rs. 11,21,000.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: This head of expenditure has undergone a complete re-classification. As it is at present constituted, it comprises within its purview a variety of works including irrigation and navigation canals, embankments, sanitary drainage works, agricultural projects and anti-malarial drainage schemes, some revenue-paying and some absolutely unproductive. The next year's budget demand for these works amounts to about Rs. 13 lakhs of which the voted portion is about Rs. 11 lakhs and a quarter.

His Excellency has allowed only 20 minutes for the discussion of this demand and the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department has already taken seven minutes of the time, so, Sir, it is not possible for me to deal with the demand in a way that I would have liked to have done. Let me, however, at the outset, declare that though this is a very important item of expenditure, it received very little attention in the hands of our colleagues in the past and no attempts seem to have been made to control or criticise the expenditure involved in this demand and, as a result of our negligence, most fantastic schemes have been undertaken without much attention being paid either to their utility or relative importance. Sir, the more one examines the various items of expenditure included in this head, the more one feels the necessity of instituting a thorough inquiry into the manner in which the works of this department are carried on beginning from the very initiation of a scheme to its upkeep and maintenance. Sanitary drainage, anti-malarial work, mitigation of the effects of floods are very catching phrases. These high sounding phrases are enough to persuade one to grant any amount of money, specially one, who does not care to take the trouble of going

into the details of a highly technical subject, finds it safer to leave everything in the hands of the executive which is supposed to be the best authority in the matter. And, Sir, I fully realise that owing to the technical character of these subjects, the number of members who look upon them, in this way, is quite large and it is for this reason alone that I have moved for a reduction of only Rs. 21,000 out of a total demand of Rs. 11,21,000. By my motion, Sir, I want to invite the attention of the members of this Council as well as of the Hon'ble Member in charge that the expenses of this department and schemes which are undertaken by it require a very close examination and a thorough inquiry.

I will now pick out certain items of expenditure to show the careless manner in which the expenses are incurred in this department.

There is a small irrigation canal called the Eden Canal in the district of Burdwan. About 23,000 acres of land were irrigated by it in 1920-21, and the water-rates collected after deducting about 10 per cent. commission amounted to about Rs. 31,000.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Kumar Saheb I hope you will kindly try to get through with your speech as quickly as possible, as twenty minutes have been allowed altogether for Irrigation.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: To assess and collect these rates we maintained a revenue establishment which cost us Rs. 9,000 in addition to the amount paid as commission. Or in other words we spend about 33 per cent. of our gross collection in collection charges. I leave it to the Council to judge whether this is not sheer extravagance.

Then, Sir, Orissa Coast Canal is a heavy drag on our revenue. This canal was sanctioned in 1881. It was then said that the new coast canal was expected to increase navigation receipts of Orissa and Hijli works and to provide a direct route to Orissa which was not then connected by a railway. The canal was completed in 1885 at a cost of about Rs. 40 lakhs. Since its completion, our gross revenue from this canal to the end of the year 1920 is about Rs. 3,32,000 and expenses for the same period about Rs. 5,00,000. In some year the receipts have exceeded expenditure, but that is immaterial, because the huge cost of repair at an interval of every two or three years, have swallowed up all excess receipts and left large deficits. The main source of income, the revenue from tollage on boats shows a marked tendency towards decrease. This canal does not serve any useful purpose now, and an inquiry instituted by the Government of Bihar and Orissa also came to the same conclusion. If any one is to maintain it, it is the duty of the Orissa Government to do so.

It is proposed to make an experiment with the dredger *Burdwan* in this canal. This is perhaps the worst use to which the new dredger could be put. It was a sad mistake, Sir, to order for expensive dredgers in a fit—rather an eccentric fit—for doing something grand. The orginal

project, the Grand Trunk Canal, is now thought by many to be an impossible and absolutely useless scheme.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: May I rise to a point of order? I do not think the Grand Trunk Canal project is now under discussion, because it is not included under this head at all. So any remarks which the Kumar Sahib wishes to make in this connection had better be made when that demand is put forward.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I knew that the Grand Trunk Canal was not included under this head, but the dredgers which were ordered for use in that canal are now proposed to be used in other places. I think the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur will now see the necessity of my referring to the Grand Trunk Canal.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I will give an answer to that in the course of my reply.

KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: But to create fantastic needs for the use of costly dredgers ordered in that connection, is most deplorable and I strongly protest against an unnecessary use of the dredger *Burdwan* in the Orissa Coast Canal.

If work has to be found for these dredgers, why not use them in dredging those portions of the rivers in Bengal where we are incurring quite a large expenditure under this head, in bandalling process? Sir, talking of bandalling, I find that this mode of training river channels is not practised anywhere else in the world. Even high authorities in India have spoken against this system, and I trust this system would now be replaced by dredging. Sir, there is a curious item in the Budget called "Bhagirathi observation" costing us annually about Rs. 15,000. From the annual reports themselves it appears that this is an absolutely unnecessary item of expenditure. This work of observations of various sources from which the Hooghly derives its supply has been allowed to go on for a pretty long period, and it is time, Sir, that a stop is put to this annual drainage of the king's good coins. Sir, I have no time to go into the details of various drainage schemes, but what appears to me to be most extraordinary is that almost all these schemes are confined to the neighbourhood of Calcutta, mostly in the districts of Hooghly, Howrah, Burdwan and the 24-Parganas. My information is not quite definite about the improvement of sanitation brought about by these schemes.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I am afraid, Kumar Saheb, you must finish your speech.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I am entitled to speak for half an hour, but as His Excellency has allotted only twenty minutes for this subject, and as seven minutes of this have already been taken by the Hon'ble Member in charge and two minutes by yourself, I think I had better stop here.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I must say that the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan is a great man and his demands are also great. He began with a demand of about Rs. 27,00,000 for Land Revenue, of about Rs. 8½ lakhs for Forests and now he has come forward with a demand of about Rs. 11½ lakhs for Irrigation. I do not know where he is taking us whether to the deeper forests or to more troubled waters through his Irrigation projects. I think we cannot go along with him: there must be a halt. I am simply surprised at the moderation of the mover who has only suggested a reduction of Rs. 21,000 from Rs. 11,21,000. I think there is every chance of considerable decrease in this Department, and therefore, I would ask the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, who is the leading man of our province, to accept a little reduction in this demand.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I will not deal seriously with what Babu Surendra Nath Mallik has said, for a member of Government cannot be expected to agree that there is a leakage in the department and that we provide for funds in a manner which promotes such leakage. That is a thing which will not be tolerated by any member for one moment. I should, however, like to reply to some of the charges made by the Kumar Sahib regarding this demand. The Kumar Sahib has said that in this demand there are some fantastic schemes included. I should like to ask the Kumar Sahib what are the fantastic schemes he alludes to in the different items, which I mentioned in my opening remarks, for which the amount is required. With the exception of the Arapanch Drainage Scheme, there is no anti-malarial scheme under this demand. Secondly, I may say without ruffling the Kumar Sahib that he has made a somewhat fantastic suggestion that one of the dredgers *Burdwan* is going to work in the Orissa Canal. I may say at once that it is not possible to work this dredger in the canal because this dredger will not be able to enter the canal and work in it.

Now as regards the other items which he has mentioned regarding the question of bandalling, I must say that this Government must be guided by its experts. Whether bandalling is practised in any other part of the world or not, it is a common thing here and not confined to this province alone. Now the Kumar Sahib wants to reduce the demand by a fantastic figure of Rs. 21,000. This is, I understand, just an idea of a cut out of the Rs. 11,21,000 and granting us graciously a round figure of Rs. 11,00,000. I have already explained how this amount is made up. The heads under which this is distributed are—

Eden Canal—Rs. 35,000; Orissa Coast Canal, Nadia Rivers, etc.—Rs. 1,12,000; Embankments, Drainage Works and minor works—Rs. 9,65,000; Reserve—Rs. 9,000.

There is no item of exactly Rs. 21,000 to be found in any of the estimates. It is not known how the mover arrives at this figure. If the amount is reduced by this, it will mean curtailing our expenditure on the

works which we propose to take up, which are already cut down to the limit. The works under this main head are—Eden Canal, Orissa Coast Canal, Nadia Rivers, Jaighatta and Buxi khal, Magra Hat Drainage Scheme, River Training Works including Bidyadhari Spill Operation, Maintenance of Embankments including flood remedial measures, Maintenance of Drainage Works.

I have already said that the Eden Canal is serving a very useful purpose and the demand for it cannot possibly be reduced. The amount asked for on the Orissa Coast Canal is very small when it is considered how useful the Orissa Coast Canal is both in convenience for traffic and also drainage, although it is perfectly true that in view of the opening of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway this canal has declined in importance, but the indirect value is very large and more than balances this small grant asked for. I have already explained why the Bihar Government have come to the conclusion that this canal should not be closed up. If it is not closed up, it will mean that it must be kept in working order. The works connected with the Nadia Rivers system consist of the training of river channels by means of bandals with the object of maintaining, by scouring shoals, a sufficient depth of water for boat-traffic, of improving the sanitary condition of the country and of conserving the head-water of the river Hooghly If our grant for this work is really cut, we shall have to suspend these operations in the Bhagirathi which will be a very unfortunate thing to do. The embankments have to be kept up for protecting an area of 5,512 square miles from floods and nothing can be cut under this head.

Questions in this Council have on various occasions been asked about these works and it is a matter of wonder that proposals are now put forward for reducing the grants which are essentially necessary for the proper upkeep of these works which serve the country and the people to a great extent.

For these reasons I must, on behalf of Government, oppose the motion.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I want to say one word. The Hon'ble Member in charge has just now said that the dredger *Burdwan* cannot be used in the Orissa Canal, but I quote from this grey book or whatever it may be called——

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I cannot allow you to make a speech.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: He has questioned my statement, but I say my statement was quite correct. I would refer the Hon'ble Member to page 23 of this book. It says that this dredger "will be used for works generally on the Midnapore, Hijli Tidal and Orissa Coast Canals and in the improvements of the rivers connected with drainage projects. The working expenses of the dredger *Burdwan* for six months next year will be debited under this head." So it will be seen that I was quite correct in my statement.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: That is for the river and not for the canal.

The motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.

NOES.

Ali, Maulvi Syed Mukseod.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Biss, Mr. E. E.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Das, Mr. S. R.
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Deare, Lieutenant-Colonel B. H.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Farequi, Mr. K. C. M.
French, Mr. F. C.
Chese, Mr. D. C.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khaitan, Babu Devi Prosad.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 11 and the Noes 39, the motion was lost.

The original Demand for a sum of Rs. 11,21,000 for expenditure under the head "15.—Irrigation—other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till Monday, the 20th March, 1922, at 3 P.M. in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 20th March, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 102 nominated and elected members.

The Budget of the Government of Bengal, 1922-23.

Demands for Grants.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I move "that a a sum of Rs. 20,07,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '16—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works."

The works under this head for which the grant is asked for are:—
Calcutta and Eastern Canals;
Madaripur Canal;
Widening and deepening of Madaripur Bil Route; and
Hijli Tidal Canal.

Calcutta Canals comprise of (*1*) Circular Canal between Dhappa and Chitpur Locks, (*2*) New Cut Canal from Ultadangi to Dhappa Lock, (*3*) Central Lake Channel from Dhappa Lock to Bidyadhari river at Samookpota, (*4*) Nowbhanga Khal and Sowrah taking off below Dhappa Lock, (*5*) Kristopur Canal from the New Cut Canal to Bhangar Khal, and (*6*) Tolly's Nulla from Hastings Bridge to the Bidyadhari river.

The Eastern Canal extends from Baman Ghata to Barisal, a district of 200 miles consisting of a locked canal from Baman Ghata to kulti called Bhangore Canal and after that a line of connected rivers. It also includes the steamer route to Sundarbans.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals carry a certain amount of steamer traffic, but the bulk of the traffic is carried by country-boats.

All through the cold weather months you may count on any day 800 boats of all sizes loaded with fuel, rice, pulse, timber and all sorts of commodities waiting outside Kulti Lock on their way to Calcutta. The accommodation is actually not sufficiently great.

The Madaripur Bil Route was made to shorten the route between Calcutta and Eastern Bengal by about 100 miles and has been carried out by hand excavation and by dredging.

There is an enormous amount of traffic between Calcutta and Eastern Bengal and Assam and the best way to carry bulky goods and the cheaper varieties of raw materials which do not demand very rapid transit and which would be unable to bear the cost of removal by rail is by water. During a single year 1,362,200 tons, *i.e.*, 36,779,440 maunds of goods have been carried and 98,695 passengers requiring 33,531 boats. The mere fact that such traffic exists means that it is necessary for the welfare of the people at both ends. A great deal of it is carried by the steamer companies, but there is a large amount of country-boat traffic.

For these reasons I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 20,07,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "16.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works."

The following motion was, by the leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu NALINI NATH ROY: "That the amount provided for the widening and deepening of the Madaripur Bil route be refused."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move "that the sum of Rs. 7,88,000 which it is proposed to grant for widening and deepening the Madaripur Bil Canal, be reduced by Rs. 4,00,000."

On referring to Appendix A (page 71 of the grey book), it will be found that the grant for this project was Rs. 4 lakhs in 1920-21. And what I propose therefore is that considering the unique financial situation with which we are faced at present, the demand for Rs. 7,88,000 be reduced by Rs. 4,00,000, *i.e.*, by half, for I cannot think that the work will suffer much if we grant almost the same amount as was granted last year. There can be no justification for nearly double expenditure on this project if arrangement has got to be made for the trial work of a certain dredger. And to say that the sum of Rs. 7,88,000 is all that remains to be spent for this scheme is not true as the small foot-note—"Estimate under revision" will show. Moreover, before granting this demand, we should take note of the fact that the schemes with which the Madaripur Bil route is classed, are not only unproductive schemes but that, taken as a whole, the loss, under the corresponding revenue head, has mounted up from Rs. 13,000 in 1919-20 to about Rs. 5 lakhs in 1921-22. Yet these are the commercial services—services in running which profit and loss cannot but be taken into account—and services which were indeed paying before and which can again be made paying and yield a good return if only the Government do not follow an ultra-protectionist policy with regard to the trade that is carried on through them by keeping the toll charges at a very low level. What, therefore, I propose is that let us grant, for the present, a sum of nearly Rs. 4 lakhs, and if we see receipts and income under the corresponding head improve in future,

then we shall be in a position to grant more money to spend for such purposes. But for the present, we should grant only such sum as was granted last year.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: The history of this Madaripur Canal is interesting and may even smack of mystery. In Faridpur district, there is a vast low-lying track, about 45 miles long and 25 miles wide, and bounded on the east by the river Kumar and on the west by the Madhumati. This lowland is commonly known as the Mardaripur Bil. In summer, generally, it was dry, but in the rains, water flowed into it from the uplands surrounding it, and from the two rivers, the Kumar and the Madhumati, through various small khals and water courses. And then water stood on it about 5 or 6 cubits deep. In this vast Bil paddy grew in abundance, and in autumn this green mantle of our mother Bengal looked resplendent, realising the dream of our poets. But now those days are gone, no longer is the Bil so entrancing. That beauty has vanished. But why? And I am going to relate to you the "why" of that. Twenty years ago and before that there were two small water channels, connecting this Bil with the rivers, the Kumar and Madhumati, carrying their surplus water into the Bil, and filling it up. The whole of this Bil was cultivated, and with the increase of water paddy plants also grew in height, and again after the rains, by the months of March and April this Bil water flowed back into the rivers through those very channels. This had a double effect. Not only it produced an abundant harvest, but our Hon'ble Minister will perhaps be glad to hear, that his favourite theory of "bonification" was being carried out into practice, of course naturally and inexpensively. Moreover during the rains country boats used to pass through the chanels and over the Bil, shortening the trade route between East and West Bengal, and during heavy rains, even smaller steamers could pass. This drew the attention of the big steamer companies, and that was in 1901. They then proposed to the Government that if the bends of the channels be a little straightened and widened, then every year during the rains their steamers would be able to make short-cuts to East Bengal. The Government acceded to the proposal, with the result that Indian boatmen had to wind up their business and give up the trade. But that is another tale. And this went on for some time. And then the European steamer concerns came forward with further proposals. They complained, that it was only during the rains that their steamers could pass, and so they were losing very heavily. By the "loss" perhaps they meant that more profit was possible. They suggested that if the two channels from the Madhumati and the Kumar were connected by another canal than their steamers could pass through, throughout the year, and they even agreed to pay some tollage. The Government consented to this and the two channels were joined. Sir, please remember that till then no great injury was done to the Bil. But this concession instead of stopping the demands of the steamer companies only resuscitated them, this time in aggravated

forms and shapes. The companies again came up with one of their further modest proposals. Their complaint now was that the channels were too narrow, and if they be a bit deepened and widened then their bigger steamers would also be able to pass. The benign Government in its benignity at once employed great engineers to frame a scheme and they also in their turn drafted one and made an estimate of Rs. 32 lakhs, and their scheme was for a canal about 150 feet wide and about 9 feet deeper than the lowest low water level of the Madhumati itself. It was also settled by them that the earth dredged out would form an embankment towards the south of the canal. The people of the locality opposed the scheme on both sanitary and agricultural grounds, but their opposition was brushed aside, for what was it worth as against the demands of the European steamer concerns. The wishes of the masters must be carried out, and the Secretary of State sanctioned the scheme of Rs 32 lakhs in 1908; as for the money, the burden was to be borne by the eternal bearer, the humble and feeble tax-payers of Bengal! With a fanfaronade the work began, and with such hurry and bustle, that before 1913, it was almost finished, but the Rs. 32 lakhs did not suffice, and so a further sanction of Rs. 3 lakhs was taken. But, Sir, now comes the saddest part of the story. With the increasing income of the steamer companies their greed also grew. And this time they came up again with a further demand. They prayed that the canal be so widened and deepened that two steamers might pass each other with two flats on both sides of each. Of course this money they will not have to produce from their own coffers, and when our Government has been complaisant enough to grant whatever they desired, then this further desire of theirs cannot much be blamed. They are not to be blamed in any way. It is our lot, our fate, the fate of our poor countrymen. However, the Government again acquiesced, and, by a telegram, the Secretary of State sanctioned a further estimate of Rs. 27 lakhs in 1919. Sir, the people of the country are dying — to quote the words of the Minister for Public Health—like rats in their thousands from malaria and other preventible diseases, they get not sufficient water to slake their thirst, receive no treatment during illness, their children remain illiterate for want of provision and all this the Government say for want of funds in their exchequer. The Government has no money for these purposes. The other day, we passed the three taxation Bills, and from the revenue derived therefrom, about Rs. 15 lakhs would be kept apart for payment of interest for loans to be contracted at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and with those loans our Hon'ble Ministers assure us they will try to rid the country of scourges. Not before that. Not unless the poor country is squeezed to its limits. But when the talk of increasing the profits of the steamer companies come up, when their fat purses are further to be fattened, then there is no talk of economy, no lack of funds, the matter cannot on any account be put off for a few years even, but lakhs must be spent at once, caring naught if the return on the

capital expenditure does not amount to even 3 per cent. per annum. Can freaks of fortune be more obvious? Can our fate be further cursed? Down to 1922 about Rs. 58 lakhs have already been spent as capital on this and because this is regarded as one of the "minor works," no interest is calculated, for otherwise, the interest alone of the amount already spent would come up to about Rs. 20 lakhs. Sir, deducting the working expenses, this canal has up till now added to the exchequer only Rs. 12 lakhs as net revenue. Sir, if the interest were taken into account, we would have lost Rs. 8 lakhs on account of interest alone and the capital expenditure would have amounted to Rs. 66 lakhs. In 1921, our profit from this canal for tollage is only Rs. 1,88,000, which means that the profit realised is even less than 2½ per cent. per annum.

The people of the country are poor but playing ducks and drakes with the money realised from these poor people is possible for only one Government in the whole British Empire, *viz.*, the Government of India. But now no longer can we say the Government of India, for the members in the Legislative Assembly have shown that they will no longer be a party to that insane extravagance. No, that brand of ignominy is perhaps only left for us The other day we have been instrumental in imposing additional burdens on the people, but as for relieving the existing burdens, all our efforts are in vain. How can we justify our existence to the people? How can we face our own countrymen, when they will ask us—"What have you done?" Our only reply is—"We have fettered you all the more."

The rate of tollage in this canal is also curious. The rate in the Midnapore and Orissa Canal is 1¼ pie per mile per ton, in the Hijli Canal about 3 pies, in the Eastern Canal about 9 pies, but in Madaripur Canal, only 3 quarters of a pie per mile per ton. Is it because the other canals are mostly used by Indian boatmen and this latter by European steamer concerns? I hope I shall receive a clear, unambiguous, specific reply on this point from the Hon'ble Member why is the rate so low?

However, Sir, I do not propose to stop all expenses altogether. The estimate was for Rs. 62 lakhs, and Rs. 58 lakhs have already been spent and let the balance of Rs. 4 lakhs be spent this year.

Here the Member reached his time-limit.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Sir, I pray for one minute to finish my speech.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): I regret I cannot allow it as there are several other speakers.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I think I should support the idea that this grant should be cut down to a certain extent. First, I do not think that it is possible to spend more than Rs. 4 lakhs in the course of a year Last year's experience shows that if we are to spend Rs. 4

lakhs on the scheme, we shall be spending an amount which could possibly be spent in the course of a year; secondly, this is not a sanitary scheme and therefore, we should not spend on it. I quite see the idea that this is a scheme which is nearing completion and if we spend a little more money on it, it will be completed, but that is no reason why we should spend too much on it; thirdly, this scheme, I understand, has been taken up for the purpose of meeting the trade route. No doubt that is a very laudable object, but I find it is not a profitable scheme at all. I find, even taking it at its highest, the profit is below 3 per cent. Nowadays we have to borrow money at the rate of 6½ per cent. Therefore, with this stringent financial position of the difficulty of borrowing money, is it necessary that we should spend more money—more than what we possibly could spend in the course of the year? Four lakhs is quite a decent amount and we cannot spend more than that as past experience has shown. There is certainly an idea abroad that there is going to be a new action between the two branches of the old system. But I am told by the Hon'ble Member in charge that that is not so—it is merely broadening things more. But apart from that, how far it is going to be profitable that is to be seen. It is not a sanitary scheme and therefore we should not be at all extravagant about it, specially as we have not got sufficient money this year. So I think Rs. 4 lakhs is quite enough for this purpose.

With these words, I support Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri's amendment.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: My motion is covered by the present motion which has been moved by Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri. I therefore beg leave to withdraw the following amendment while I will speak on the present motion:—

"That the demand for Rs. 7,96,000 under the heading '2 Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works,' be reduced to Rs. 4,50,000."

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: With regard to the amount that has been estimated, I have only one word to say I have heard it said in this Council that, in drawing up an estimate, three years' average is ordinarily taken. We shall see how far that has been done with regard to this estimate. We find from this book that in the year 1918-19 we spent Rs. 3,95,000, in the year 1919-20, Rs. 7,18,000, in the year 1920-21, Rs. 3,23,000. So, if the actuals of these three years be taken together, the average comes up to something like Rs. 4,75,000, that is the amount which, under the ordinary course, should have been provided under this head. I do not understand, however, why the ordinary practice has been departed from with regard to this particular scheme.

Sir, so much has been said by the previous speakers about the utility of the scheme that I do not think I should add anything to it. All I wish to say is whether we are in a position to spend more money—

more than the average amount of the last three years. That is the question which is to be decided by this Council. Relying on that, we should not spend more than what we have been spending, and in view of the economic condition, I think that the amount of Rs. 4 lakhs is fair enough for this purpose.

With these words, I support Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri's amendment.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I have listened with some surprise to the arguments against the steamer route to Eastern Bengal. We have been told that over a crore of rupees has been spent on it, and one speaker has further said that we have made only 3½ per cent. on it—we make some profit. The question is—"Are we to throw away the one crore that has been already spent upon it?" It will be absolutely throwing away the money if the steamer route is allowed to silt up. We have been further told that trade routes do not matter. Trade routes do not matter! Why, they are the very life of the people! We have been also told that this route benefits European steamer companies. I must say that to create prejudice against this vital route for Eastern Bengal in this fashion is, to my mind, improper. Sir, the destruction of one's country best interests is considered by some people as patriotic because it is anti-English. I protest strongly that on the ground of anti English feeling the best interests of the country should be jeopardized.

Babu NALINI NATH ROY: At the outset, I want to make my position clear by saying that it is not my intention to be obstructive only for opposition's sake to the Department of Irrigation where I am a member of the Standing Committee. I do say that the principle which actuated me in supporting this amendment is this. It is the paramount duty of this Council to reduce expenditure to the lowest level consistent with the well-being of the province, the efficiency of the Department concerned and the proportionate expenditure for the welfare of all classes of people of this province.

This Bil route is mainly for trade purposes, so it can be compared with the proposed Grand Trunk Canal. This route is meant for easier communication with East Bengal; no doubt it facilitates trade between Eastern Bengal and Calcutta, but there are considerable damages to the people of the country. The cultivated lands are all under water on account of the big bund for this route. Though there are sluice-gates, they do not serve the purpose. The present condition of the route is all right. It is navigable and steamers are plying. It is doing good to a particular class of people—the traders— out of our general revenue in the shape of construction and maintenance charges.

We cannot claim any return of money quite proportionate to our expenditure by way of tolls, because the work is taken as minor works of

navigation which does not require the project to be productive. The position is, we have spent our general revenue year after year to the extent of nearly Rs. 60 lakhs for construction purposes and some lakhs yearly as maintenance charges. The tolls that are raised are quite unproportionate to meet the recurring expenditure of the route. Under the present conditions, we may allow only this sum to complete the route as was originally intended. As the route is navigable, we will not allow any more expenditure in future for the benefit of the trade people. We shall not be justified in spending the tax-payers' money for the benefit of a class of men when tax-payers are heavily suffering to meet their needs for want of money.

I find that no new sanitary and agricultural improvement or anti-malarial works will be taken up next year because of financial stringency. Well and good! Then why this expenditure? Why not put off the improvement till we have better times? Are not sanitary and anti-malarial works more urgent? Are we not to give facilities to those works than this? It may be said, that it will inconvenience the work of dredging and other things if we postponed the matter. I do not think if we use Manikda Canal which joins Madhumati, there will be any difficulties for the present. But are we to consider more for the dredger *Ronaldshay's* work on the route so that it might work next in the Grand Trunk Canal, leaving aside other questions of the nation's benefit?

Why should we have a new big canal from Haridaspur? If the Manikda Canal or anything regarding the route may prove costly to maintain, let those pay the cost who derive the benefit. I again say we will not be justified in spending our revenue for the benefit of the traders.

Another reason is that these Bil routes and Trunk Canal projects are all rivals to our anti-malarial operations, because if men and money are engaged in all these works how will it be possible to take up other works that will do good to our country directly? Serving as a member of the Standing Committee of Irrigation, I have experienced that there are difficulties about men and money though there are good many anti-malarial and sanitary improvement projects pending. It is our duty to protest against any work of class benefit if a large number of our country-men suffer by that.

As far as my information goes, I know that this route is somewhat responsible for silting up of the adjoining rivers Madhumati, Kumar Barasia and a large area of land under water where cultivation is impossible. I have got enough facts to prove how reclamation of water-logged areas and resuscitation of dying rivers of the province have been neglected. Let us frankly decide then about this motion. If we think that the Bil route is more essential than any other construction of Irrigation, Navigation, embankment and drainage works of the province, support the demand by all means, otherwise support the motion for reduction.

I have criticised the Madaripur Bil route on my general remarks on the Budget when the Hon'ble Member in charge has asked and asked with virtuous indignation—" Is it not the duty of the Government to provide facilities for trade?" " Is not trade the life-blood of a country?" To both of these questions I beg to answer that under the present circumstances trade may be the cause of draining away the life-blood of the country. I say there are circumstances in which the life-blood of the country is not sucked up through particular channels of trade, but is drained away out into the sea. When productive channels are provided which cannot pay their way, and when such channels are provided out of the revenue of the country, which is in sore distress in more ways than one, I call it draining away the life-blood of the country.

Some of these channels have not paid their way since they have come into existence. They have been constructed out of the revenue, they have been maintained partly out of the revenue. The Government want that these precious channels should be kept open for more years, if not all years to come out of revenue. I appeal to the Council not to support the motion and not to accede to the request to spend so much money on the Bil route.

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: I rise to support this amendment, but I do not wish to take up much time of the Council. If the scheme is given effect to with the money of the local people, I have no objection. My idea is that the benefit should not be at the cost of another section of the people—namely, the poorest section—and it is on this point that I support the amendment.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: A great deal has been spoken with regard to the Madaripur Bil route and my experience of one year of the Reformed Council is that that is no good for a member of the Council to get up and make any lengthy statement about any project specially when it falls entirely on deaf ears or on ears that pretend to be deaf at any rate. I explained at some length, the other day, everything in connection with this Bil route. In spite of that we have had, on a particularly hot afternoon, a tirade from the Kumar of Rajshahi. But regarding the Kumar, it reminds me of a story which I heard as a boy. " Is there no hope the patient said?" " The silent doctor shook his head." Anything I may say is likely to fall on deaf ears where the Kumar is concerned.

As regards the other speakers, before I speak at some length, I would just like to mention one or two little matters which were brought to the notice of the Council. First of all, I would deal with the remarks of my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, who wanted to know whether we had been indulging in some magician's art by introducing a new cut in the Madaripur Bil route. To that my reply is that since the scheme, as it now stands, was sanctioned in 1919, we have gone on steadily working on that scheme, namely, deepening and widening the Madaripur Bil route.

I am not aware, neither is the Secretary to the Irrigation Department aware, of any other cross cut; and, in consequence, I take it that he is misinformed on that particular point until he can prove it to the contrary.

As regards the observations of Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur that, because for three years we had on an average spent about Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 lakhs, therefore, this year, we should be content with Rs. 4 lakhs which Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri has kindly promised to allow us. Well, Sir, the point is this. When a Bil route or any route like that is started, for the first couple of years or so the work is likely to be slow, but later on both with men and money we can make more rapid progress. I have naturally got to be guided in a matter of this kind by the expert advisers of Government. They tell me that the amount which we have budgeted for is likely to be spent if granted during the current year, and therefore, the amount is necessary.

A great deal has been said about the use of one of the dredgers which was meant for the Grand Trunk Canal in this Bil route. The position simply is this. As soon as we have got a new dredger, we have to test it under contract for six months. We have simply replaced a bad dredger to work in this Bil route and we have naturally debited the cost to its expense. So there is nothing mysterious about it. We have got this new dredger and according to the contract we have got to try and test it for six months. Because if we do not try it and after six months it is found that it does not work well, we shall still have to pay the money. If the dredger does not work well during these six months we may have a chance of selling it back to the contractor. For this reason, we are going to try this new dredger in the Madaripur Bil route. This new dredger was originally meant to be used in the Grand Trunk Canal, but is now going to be used in the Madaripur Bil route.

As regards the questions of steamer traffic, it pains me somewhat to see that the son of a zamindar and a zamindar of a very respectable family like the Kumar should take such a petty-minded and narrow view regarding European trade and European steamer companies. If there were Indian steamer companies no doubt they would get the same benefit as the European steamer companies, but because certain steamer companies have been first in the field, to say that they are to be harassed is indeed to take a very narrow view of it. We all know that the steamer route or steamer traffic to Eastern Bengal is very important. But what I want to say is that the steamer traffic is not the only traffic and that the boat traffic is by no means an insignificant factor. For instance the traffic statement of the Madaripur Bil route for 1920 shows that boats carrying cargo were 16,036 in number and these cargo-boats carried 13,622 tons or 36,729,440 maunds of traffic. Boats carrying passengers in this route were 35,531 and they carried 98,695 passengers. There were also empty boats which were meant for cargo and so forth accounting for the total boat traffic of 33,531.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: May I intervene for a moment? Do boats include steamers?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: No; boats include flats and not steamers. That goes to show that it is not purely meant for the steamer traffic but it is also meant for the country-boat traffic. I may say that when I myself went to the Kristopur Canal the other day, I was surprised to see the amount of boat traffic that come into Calcutta and a great deal of it comes from the Madaripur Bil route.

I have myself started an inquiry as to the rates of tolls in the different canals. I was struck when I was coming through this canal the other day that our rates will exceedingly low in some places, but regarding that it must be borne in mind that until and unless the deepening of the canal is completed and until and unless the people themselves concerned whether they be the steamer companies or whether they be those who own country boats, know that there is going to be a sufficient flow of water in this route all the year round and the trade all the year round is guaranteed, we would not be justified in raising the rates of tolls to any very great degree. For these reasons it is essential for us to complete the deepening and the widening of this Bil route.

One other point I would like to mention is the one which has been mentioned by a gentleman, who happens to be a member of the Irrigation Standing Committee and who passed the budget for the Madaripur Bil route giving me the idea at the time that the only thing he had to object to is the provision for the easing of the bend at Ghazi Khal. He now comes forward and makes a motion for the entire omission of the amount asked for.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I rise to a point of order. Are not the proceedings of the Standing Committee confidential?

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: The Maharajadhiraja Bahadur has no right to refer to what transpired in the Standing Committee.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I did not refer to what transpired in the Standing Committee but simply to the fact that he passed the budget there. I am perfectly justified in saying it. A gentleman who had ample opportunities of expressing his views in the Standing Committee now comes forward for the total omission of this item and one of the reasons he puts forward in the Legislative Council is that there are large anti-malarial and other projects which could not be taken up for want of funds. If he objected on the merits of the scheme it would have been intelligible to me, but regarding the anti-malarial projects, I may say these are matters which, to a certain extent, we do take up in the Irrigation Department

but we do not take them up until the Local Self-Government Department pass them on to us. We are primarily concerned with matters which concern the Irrigation Department. In view of the large amount of money we have already spent on the Madaripur Bil route, I think we are justified to demand the grant. For these reasons I have to oppose the omission of this provision in the Budget.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I want a decision from the Chair whether the Hon'ble Member was in order in referring to what transpired in the Standing Committee.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I simply said that he acquiesced to this provision in the Standing Committee.

A division was then taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmad, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Nasker, Babu Ham Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Husayn Shaheed.

NOES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Mr. M.
Ayam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barton Mr. H.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Biss, Mr. E. E.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Das, Mr. S. R
De, Babu Fanindralal.
Deare, Lieutenant-Colonel S. H.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Farequi, Mr. K. G. M.
French, Mr. P. C.
Chose, Mr. D. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hephyns, Mr. W. S.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Law, Raja Reshee Case.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
Mittar, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Parrett, Mr. P.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 27 and the Noes 45, the motion was lost.

The following amendment, standing in the name of Babu Nalini Nath Ray, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand provided for the weir in the Madaripur Bil route be refused."

Babu NALINI NATH ROY: I move "that the demand for Rs. 30,000 for easing the bend of Ghazi Khal be refused."

I oppose this item on the principle that if facilities of trade are to be provided, let it be done by those who will benefit by it or at the cost of those who will directly benefit by it; but not at the cost of the tax-payer to whom it is, to say the least, of very doubtful utility. I have called the attention of this Council to the trade spirit lying behind the framing of the Budget. This spirit should not be fostered.

With these few words, I oppose the motion.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I do not desire, in the short space of time I have, to go into the question of these luxuries that Babu Nalini Nath Roy mentions, and I will just confine myself to the facts.

The bend referred to is a very awkward sharp corner on the steamer route. I believe it is between Khulna and Madaripur. At present, on dark nights during high winds, this sharp bend is actually a danger to life, and for that reason it is proposed to dredge away the sharp nose so as to make it safe for all vessels. This route is not used by steamers alone but also by country-boats. Of course, a steamer with proper lights is in a far better position to get round this point than a vessel like a country-boat. It is very difficult for steamers towing flats to get round this point, but it is almost impossible for country-boats. Anyone who has seen a large country-boat trying to manœuvre against a high wind round a sharp bend in the river will understand what an exceedingly dangerous thing it is and how easily such a boat may be upset.

I think the object on which we wish to spend this Rs. 30,000 is of very great importance, as it effects both life and property and I am sure everyone in this Council will agree that it will improve the existing route and that it is our duty to affect such an improvement. For these reasons, I cannot accede to Nalini Babu's request.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I want to know what is this Gazi Khal? It has not been explained.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: It is a khal between Khulna and Madaripur.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following amendment was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: " That the demand for the working expenses of the dredger *Ronaldshay*, be refused."

The following amendment was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: " That the demand for Rs. 7,96,000 for construction of Irrigation, etc., works under head 16, be reduced by Rs. 45,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move " that the demand for Rs. 12,11,000 for working expenses, as shown under head 16, be reduced by Rs. 70,000."

I simply wanted to discuss the question, but I find no time is left to me. Moreover, it is unfortunate that while we go through a mass of statistics and reports of old days, and get an opportunity to make useful suggestions, we are gagged for want of time, and rebuked by the Hon'ble Member in charge for making suggestions. However, we have learnt by this time how to treat the Hon'ble Member's remarks. But surely it is against all principle to reduce the time for the discussion of difficult and important subjects. I would suggest that in future before making this allotment of time, the leading members of the House may be consulted either by the President or by His Excellency or by the Secretary.

As regards this amendment, there is considerable waste in this department and also there are ways and means by which the revenue would be increased. I cannot go into details, but if the Hon'ble Member so desires, I can assure him that my services will be at his disposal.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: There are older Brahmins than the Kumar Sahib at whose feet I could sit and learn. At the present moment, he has not adduced any arguments; so I oppose this motion.

The motion was put and lost.

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 20,07,000 for expenditure under the head "16—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works " was then put and agreed to.

22.—General Administration.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: We have got about 80 amendments and have 8 hours to discuss them in; so we must try to finish each amendment within six minutes. I shall give three minutes to the mover of an amendment, and three minutes for the reply. This will be on an average; some of the amendments might take longer, but this will be the average.

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): I move " that a sum of Rs. 84,31,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '22.—General Administration.' "

The first point which requires explanation is the discrepancy between the figure Rs. 80,86,000 shown at page 26 of the Grey Book, and the total Rs. 84,31,000 for which I have just asked. The explanation is to be found in the supplementary memorandum of the Finance Department, dated the 14th instant, which mentions that the Auditor-General has ruled that the charges for treasury establishments (Rs. 3 lakhs), which previously were shown under Land Revenue, should now be exhibited here, while we propose a further provision of Rs. 45,000 on account of a Publicity Officer. These two sums account for the difference.

The next main feature which is conspicous on a glance at the totals is the great difference between last year's total budget of Rs. 39,82,000 and Rs. 1,15,52,000 asked for this year, a difference of Rs. 75,70,000. But this too is explained by another of these rather troublesome changes in accounts classification. The charges of district and subdivisional establishments—Rs. 72,33,000 in the Grey Book, plus, presumably Rs. 3 lakhs for Treasury establishments, or Rs. 75,33,000 in all—now figure here instead of, as previously, under Land Revenue, and Administration of Justice. Allowing for this fact, there is no marked difference in the totals.

This head, in fact, now covers most of the general machinery of the Presidency, on the executive side, from the Governor downwards to the Executive Council, the Legislative Council, the Secretariat and the district staffs from the Board of Revenue to the subdivisional establishments. Naturally, the total is a large one. Comparing the Budget with the revised, the big differences are the following:—

(*i*) Tour expenses of His Excellency; we have a decrease of Rs. 55,000 due to the fact that last year we had to pay Rs. 46,000 for a new metre gauge saloon.

(*ii*) Under Legislative Council is an excess of Rs. 34,000 as compared with the revised, and Rs. 91,000 as compared with the Budget for 1921-22; this big increase is one of the consequences of the Reforms. The enhancement is mainly under contingencies and travelling allowance. There has also been a large increase under printing but those figures are elsewhere.

(*iii*) Under Civil Secretariat, we have a rise of Rs. 1,99,000 plus, presumably, Rs. 45,000 for the Publicity Officer. Apart from the latter this is mainly due to the increased pay of ministerial officers and menials, though a Labour Intelligence Officer— Rs. 21,000—is now shown here instead of under "Industries."

(*iv*) District Administration shows a rise of Rs. 4,53,000 plus, presumably, Rs. 3 lakhs for Treasury staffs. This is mainly due to the revision of the pay of ministerial officers. Last year the budget figure was a lump sum; this year it is allotted to the particular heads to which it is charged; contingencies also account for the increase.

Otherwise the general system of administration is provided for on existing lines, and there are no special changes which require to be emphasised, although various detailed individual points will be dealt with in connection with the ensuing resolutions.

The following amendments, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:

"That the demand for Rs. 12,000 for travelling allowances under '22A.—Military Secretary,' be reduced by Rs. 6,000."

" That the demand for Rs. 9,098 for furniture and carpets under head ' 22A.—Staff and Household of the Governor—Military Secretary,' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

" That the demand for Rs. 13,335 for curtains and covers under head ' 22A.—Staff and Household of the Governor—Military Secretary,' be reduced by Rs. 6,000."

" That the demand for Rs. 11,963 for other equipment under head ' 22A.—Staff and Household of the Governor—Military Secretary,' be reduced by Rs. 6,000."

The following amendment, standing in the names of Professor S. C. Mukherji and Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar, was, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

" That the demand for Rs. 50,000 for the renewal of furniture and carpets under head ' Staff and Household of the Governor—Military Secretary,' be refused."

The following amendment, standing in the names of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri and Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

" That the demand of Rs. 50,000 for the renewal of furniture and carpets under head ' 22A.—Staff and Household of the Governor,' be reduced to Rs. 25,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—I beg to move " that the demand for Rs. 90,000 for the establishment and allowances of the Band Establishment of the Governor, be reduced by Rs. 32,836."

I also move "that the demand for Rs. 4,000 for contingencies of the Band establishment of the Governor be reduced by Rs. 1,747."

The Persian poet has sung:—

Nahar jae markal foat taak than
Kejaha safar paed undaktan.

This means "you cannot run a horse everywhere; and on some occasions you have to throw away the shield when attacked with the sword." Sir, I have withdrawn the previous motions with due deference to the wishes of the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan. I know, Sir, that this matter vitally affects the Head of the Province. But, Sir, we

cannot keep our eyes shut on matters of unnecessary expenditure like this. It must be conceded on all hands that His Excellency, who is the Supreme Head of the Presidency of Bengal, deserves the maintenance of an establishment like the Band Establishment. But, Sir, does it stand to reason for one single moment that this expenditure should be met from the revenues which have to be realised by sucking the life-blood of the people in the shape of the passing of the Taxation Bills? There is no such provision in the Budget Estimates of the Governments of Bihar and Orissa and the United Provinces. Even in the Governments of Bombay and Madras, provisions under this head have been made on a most modest scale. Then why should the Government of Bengal alone need such a large fund for the Band Establishment of the Governor?

Sir as regards motion No. 82, Rs. 57,164 was budgeted for the year 1920-21; for the year 1921-22, it was Rs. 80,000; and for the year 1922-23, it has been shown as Rs. 90,000. Thus it is seen that there has been a steady increase of Rs. 32,836 since the year 1920-21.

Then as regards motion No. 83. For 1920-21, the provision was for Rs. 2,253; for 1921-22, Rs. 2,000; and for 1922-23, Rs. 4,000. Thus there has been an increase of Rs. 1,747.

My intention is to curtail Rs. 32, 836 against motion No. 82, and Rs. 1,747 against No. 83.

The poor people of Bengal are on the verge of destruction for want of food and clothes. Is it proper, is it fair, is it just that money should be spent lavishly on items of luxury? No adequate provisions have been made for sanitation and education. When these questions arise, the answer very often is that Government have no money. But when the question of luxury and comfort of the Government officers arise, money should be found out by any means, by hook or by crook.

Nobody grudges the royal dignity and honour. In fact, we must have it by all means; in fact, we require it, nay almost all civilised countries require it, for the maintenance of prestige and position. But Sir, there must be a limit to every thing. We must not go to extremes.

As is inherent in me to say, I must say once again that there is one God overhead. What will be our reply to Him, if our countrymen have to starve for no fault of their own? Can any theist connive at all these matters of grave injustice? The fate of almost all the motions which appear on the List of Business is well-known to everybody: most of them are not carried. But I would ask, Sir, are all these motions baseless? Have they no instrinsic value at all? If these motions are worthy of any consideration, why then are these motions either withdrawn or lost in the Council? I admit, Sir, I fail to understand the significance of this course of action. It is no use moving those rigmarole resolutions or motions in the Council which are eventually withdrawn, or when put to the vote, lost. Sir, our countrymen have stigmatised us as traitors branded us with infamy, and, but for the British lion, are even prepared

to bleed us on the cross. The reason is not far to seek. The reason is that we have come to the Council against their wishes. The reason, Sir, is simple, Sir, still cling to the belief that the Legislative Council is a sham. They seem to think that their grievances are not heard; that their grievances are not remedied. So they protested in a body against our representation on the Council. But, Sir, can we not in turn prove to them the seriousness of the task which we have come here to perform? Can we not prove the zeal, the ardour, the enthusiasm with which we carry on the duties imposed upon us? Can we not deface the calumny which is thus reflected on us? Surely we can. If motions, reasonable motions, are carried and effect given to them our whole object is achieved.

Let me recite an Urdu poem in this connection:—

Agar Bukshe Zehek kismet
Na Bukshe Zehek kismet.
Bere tashim khum shai
Jo majaje yare me ayoa.

"If you do, well and good: if not, I have nothing to say. I bow down my head; it all depends on your sweet will."

In conclusion, I would ask, Sir, that if these motions are not accepted *in toto*, something must be done at least, in anticipation of which I have withdrawn my motions Nos. 74, 75, 76 and 81. We have no other alternative left. We must seek for your favours. And we must end in quoting the immortal lines of Michael Madhu Sudhan Dutt "Do what you like, O Lord (etc.)."

The following amendment, standing in the names of Professor S. C. Mukherji and Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, was, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,02,000 for the Band Establishment under head 'Staff and Household of the Governor' be reduced to Rs. 90,000."

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: As I understand, Sir, the mover of this motion has attacked this particular provision on two main grounds, the first being that the entertainment of a band at all is in the nature of a luxury, and therefore should be curtailed in these days of financial stringency; the second is that the cost of the band in the budget for next year, being materially higher than what it was for 1920-21, is susceptible of reduction. These, I take it, are his two main objections.

To deal with the first, of course, a band is in a sense a luxury. However, in the well-known despatch which led to the creation of the Presidency of Bengal, it may be remembered that a certain amount of amusement was caused by the statement that the main difference between a Governor and a Lieutenant-Governor was that the former had a band and a bodyguard, which the latter did not. That unfortunately did not in fact cover the whole difference of expenditure. However, in the old days of Lieutenant-Governors we had no band in Bengal, but it may also

be remembered that at the time the Presidency of Bengal was created—I remember it as I was in the Home Department at the time—a great deal of feeling was voiced that in no respect should the Governor of Bengal be placed on a lower social level of equipment and dignity than the Governors of Madras and Bombay. That was very strongly felt at the time and was pressed on the Government of India with one result that the Governor got a band. I think we are all agreed that for the carrying out on an appropriate scale of official functions, ceremonies and entertainments at Government House—and they have never been conducted on a more dignified scale than during the present regime—a band is a necessary corollary, and for that reason it is customary here, as well as in the Viceregal household for the State to provide a band. I submit that, given the assumption that the Council wishes the position of the Governor to be upheld with the dignity commensurate with other provinces, the provision is not unreasonable.

Turning to the second point, that the cost of the band has gone up; this is unfortunately true. In 1920-21 the actuals were Rs. 59,000; the total now is Rs. 1,02,000. The main reason is that the band in Bengal is recruited from soldiers, and the present pay of the British army has gone up enormously in recent years, with a consequent reaction on the cost of the band, while lately we had another of these annoying instances in which the provincial finances have been charged to the extent of Rs. 10,000 with charges on account of uniforms, equipment, etc., which in previous days used to be borne by the military budget. This accounts for the increase of Rs. 10,000 between the Budget of last year and the revised. Otherwise contingencies have gone up from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 4,000. This is due to the rise in price of musical instruments and music in particular. It is a somewhat delicate matter to which to allude, but I see no harm in stating that quite recently His Excellency has been paying out of his private pocket charges on this account, and therefore we agreed to this small enhancement. We also agreed to a small provision for the hire of a band when His Excellency's own band does not accompany him on tour. That explains the increase in contingencies. The third item, re-grant of savings, is really out of place here, and has no particular reference to the band. It is a re-grant of savings on the various grants for furniture, etc., savings in which in one year are allowed to be carried on to the next. The item is wrongly shown in the budget statement.

Of course it may be said, if you must have a band, why not have a band on a cheaper scale? It is perfectly true that at present we have a first class band; we might have a second or a third or a fourth class band, and so save, but as I have said, the general feeling hitherto has been in favour of these matters being run on a scale creditable to the Presidency of which the Governor is the head. That being so, it might well be left to the initiative of the Governor himself rather than to this Council to propose any change in the present scale.

The motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

My former two motions were not carried in spite of my best endeavours. So I beg to withdraw this motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs 80,000 for establishment and allowances of the Body Guard Establishment of the Governor, be reduced by Rs. 8,559."

The following amendments were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand for the Minister of Local Self-Government under '221.—General Administration,' be reduced by Rs. 28,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand for the salary of the Minister of Education, be reduced by Rs. 28,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand for the salary of the Minister for Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 28,000."

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: "That the sum of Rs. 1,92,000 for Ministers' salaries be reduced by Rs. 1,20,000."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move "that the demand for Rs. 1,92,000 for Ministers' salaries be reduced to Rs. 1,08,000."

This is on account of our poverty. I simply appeal to the Ministers and hope they will set an example not only for themselves but also for their successors. We have to be careful in every department and I hope that the Ministers will consider this matter and accede to our request. I will not speak much on this motion but I simply appeal to them.

Babu SARAT CHANDRA MUKHOPADHAYA: I move "that the sum of Rs. 1,92,000 which it is proposed to grant for the salaries of the Hon'ble the Ministers, be reduced to Rs. 1,20,000."

It looks as though the unfortunate question of reduction of the salaries of the Hon'ble Ministers is destined to come to life as often as buried. For my own part, I confess to not being in love with it simply for the sake of novelty and opposition. Parsimony is a sovereign remedy for leanness of purse, and who is here in this great House as would aver that our purse, the Exchequer of the Province, is not lean, and that the time is not come for adopting a policy of all-round retrenchment. Deficit is the order of the day, deficit without the prospects of a counter vailing source of income. If this question of reducing the salaries of the Hon'ble Ministers were the only one to engage the serious attention of the members of this House, then certainly they would have been guilty of harbouring a bias in their bosoms. But, Sir, there has been a persistent effort towards curtailment of expenditure wherever possible, and as

the salaries question affects those who are most conversant with the condition of the finances, I have taken the liberty, along with my other colleagues, to press the point in the hope that they will not be wanting in that magnanimity which is ready for a little pecuniary sacrifice. In place of Rs. 64,000 a year I have made bold to suggest Rs. 40,000 a year, in the hope that the difference of Rs. 24,000 a year may be utilized in the direction of effecting improvements in the departments in their respective charges. I think I need not venture to assure the Hon'ble Ministers that the amount of their pecuniary sacrifice will be as nothing compared to the height they will attain in the estimation of their countrymen. We congratulate ourselves for the proud privilege we enjoy of submitting our views on vital administrative questions and we earnestly hope that our Hon'ble Ministers will accept such views in the spirit in which they are advanced. Sacrifice is the principal measuring rod of public estimation and the greater the sacrifice, the higher the place in the public estimation. In giving up a portion of their salaries, the Hon'ble Ministers will not only secure an abiding place in the public estimation, but will assure to themselves the future confidence of their constituencies.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: As Babu Amulya Dhone Addy is absent, I understand that Babu Surendra Nath Mallik wants to move the next item.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: With your permission, Sir, I move "that the sum of Rs. 1,92,000 which it is proposed to grant for the pay of the Hon'ble the Ministers be reduced to Rs. 1,44,000."

I understand that the idea underlying this amendment is to fix the salary of the Ministers at Rs. 4,000 per month. We have already discussed this matter so much that I do not like to take up the time of the Council by repeating the arguments. I am, however, free to say that this proposal is being made only on account of the fact that our financial condition is such that this high pay ought to be reduced to some extent. I may also say that the argument that the pay should be Rs. 4,000 is based on the fact that the Ministers themselves promised last year to take Rs. 4,000 each and devote the rest to charity and I am simply placing the suggestion for their acceptance. There is another point and it is this: we are all anxious for the Indianisation of the services and we want to show that we can get our best men to work for us at a rate which is lower than that which is charged by Englishmen and the one element that comes in is that here is also an opportunity of serving one's motherland. I do not like to say any thing more.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I have twice given my reasons why the salary of the Ministers ought to be reduced.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I hope you will be brief.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I shall be as brief as possible. I am certainly of opinion that the salary ought not to be more

than Rs. 2,000 per mensem. As there is no such a before the House, I support the next best one, that is that the salary be Rs. 3,000 a a month. I think that is sufficient. The whole country has been calling upon the Ministers to accept a lower salary and if they do not respond to the call, I cannot help it.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I have spoken so frequently and so recently on this subject that I do not think it is necessary that I should take up the time of the Council by repeating at length the arguments which may possibly be fresh in the minds of most of us. These amendments, in actual effect, seem to seek to reduce the salary of Ministers either by something in the neighbourhood of Rs. 2,300 or Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 1,300 a month; but to all of them I would take exception on the lines which I have previously urged, namely, first, that the present sum given to Ministers is commensurate with that given to Members, with whom it has often been pressed that Ministers should be equal in status and dignity; and secondly, that the pay, in itself, looking to the pay demanded in other walks of life by men who rise to the top of the tree, is in no sense excessive even if indeed it is not inadequate in comparison nowadays with the large incomes which can be earned by successful men in other professions. These being the two arguments which I have repeatedly placed before this Council, I adhere to them now; and I confess that I have nothing new to add to what I have previously urged.

These motions were then put and lost.

The following amendment was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 25,000 for travelling allowance under head '22D.—Executive Council,' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE being absent, the following amendment was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for travelling allowance under '22D.—Executive Council,' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I move "that the demand of Rs. 2,000 for hill allowance under '22D.—Executive Council,' be refused"

As regards motions Nos. 82 and 83, nothing has been done. This is undoubtedly strange. But, Sir, it is foolish enough on my part, I admit, to cry in the wilderness. This motion is a very trifling one, so I would beg that if it is not possible to accept my motion in full, it may be accepted partly, in which case I shall thank the Hon'ble the Member in charge.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: This amount of Rs. 2,000, to which this motion has reference, is a small demand on account of the small allowances which are given to the stenographers of Members and

Ministers and to their peons and orderlies on the short occasions on which Members and Ministers are now in Darjeeling. Assuming that Members and Ministers go to Darjeeling, I think the Council will agree that it would be grossly unfair to cut the small allowances of these low-paid men who have to accompany the officers under whom they work. The provision of Rs. 2,000 is, I think, greater, however, than we need make. Last year, in accordance with the assurance which I gave to this Council, the stay of Government in Darjeeling was very materially curtailed and the expenditure all round was greatly reduced. We think, therefore, that in view of the actuals of last year, a sum of Rs. 1,000 would be ample instead of Rs. 2,000 and if the mover agrees to reduce his figure to Rs. 1,000, I am prepared to accept it.

On Shah Syed Emdadul Haq accepting the reduction proposed, the motion was put in the following modified form and agreed to:—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,000 for hill allowance under '22D.—Executive Council' be reduced to Rs. 1,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur being absent, the following amendments were deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 27,000 under head '22D.—Allowances,' be reduced to Rs. 14,000."

"That the demand for Rs. 20,000 under head '22D.—Miscellaneous,' be reduced to Rs. 10,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move "that the demands for Rs. 15,000 for the Deputy-Secretary, Legislative Department, be refused.

This demand is for a new post carrying a salary of Rs. 1,250 per month which has been created at this time of the financial stringency. It is explained no where why this post is to be created. So I beg to move that the demand be refused.

MEMBER in charge of LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): I am not sorry that this motion has been brought forward, as it gives me an opportunity of explaining to the Council the enormous increase of work which the Reforms system has entailed. In the old days we ran the Legislative Council with a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary. When the general scheme of the Reforms was under discussion, we foretold that we should have to increase the superior staff of the Legislative Department, and we asked the Government of India to sanction a Deputy-Secretary. The Government of India demurred and said that we must wait. We protested and urged that it was far better to make provision for what anybody could foresee was needed rather than wait till the work got into confusion. However, the Government of India had their way and for some time we did not have a Deputy-Secretary. But we have found in the light of experience

that what we anticipated has actually come to pass, namely, that the staff of the Legislative Department cannot carry on unless it is given further assistance, and we again went up to the Government of India pressing that point. The Government of India had to admit that events had proved us to be right, but they still stood out against a permanent addition and have only sanctioned the post of Deputy-Secretary for one year; that is at present the situation, though I have not the slightest doubt that a Deputy-Secretary will be found necessary as a permanent addition to this Department.

Let me now give the Council a few figures which show what all these changes have meant to the Legislative Department. In comparing the years 1920 and 1921, we have the cardinal factor of the number of days sittings; in 1920 it was 11; in 1921 it was 60. The number of letters received rose from 1,519 in 1920 to 8,367 in 1921; the number of letters issued rose from 1,560 to 3,864; the circulars issued rose from 1,337 to 8,202; the number of departmental cases received rose from 734 to 2,486; the number of travelling allowance and residential allowance bills rose from 79 to 371; the number of questions rose from 437 to 1,293; The number of resolutions rose from 57 to 514; the number of budget motions from 18 to 299, and the number of supplementary budget motions from nil to 88.

These figures will, I think, illustrate what is, indeed, an obvious fact, that the work of the Department in modern conditions is absolutely different in form, and twice as great as it used to be in the more leisurely days of the old Council. We have been so far somewhat lucky in escaping heavy legislation, and our time has been devoted mainly to the discussion of a wide range of resolutions; but we see before us a heavy legislative programme—the Calcutta Municipal Bill and the general amendment of the Bengal Municipal Act and the Local Self-Government Act—to say nothing of other legislative proposals which are bound to crop up in other directions. In these circumstances, I submit that this modest proposal of one additional officer in the Department is fully justified.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I inquire whether a new appointment is being created or some temporary officer is going to be made permanent?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: It is a new appointment in the sense that before the Reforms were introduced there were a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary, and there are now a Secretary, a Deputy-Secretary and an Assistant Secretary. As is probably known to the Council, Mr. Hutchison, who was formerly Assistant Secretary, will now become Deputy-Secretary, while Mr. Majumdar becomes Assistant Secretary.

The motion was then put and lost.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I beg to move "that the demand for Rs. 1,30,000 under heading '22E.—Legislative Council—Travelling allowances,' be reduced by Rs. 45,000."

This motion is moved with reference to the reduction of the travelling allowances of members of the Bengal Legislative Council. In other words, the motion means to interfere with the interests of the members of this House. Sir, I cannot help moving this motion. I must admit, firstly, because it is not my intention,—it cannot be anybody's intention—that others should labour under a misconception that the members of the Legislative Council do deliberately refrain from raising any question where their self-interests are involved; and secondly, it is not my intention to rend the skies with deafening shouts of reduction, retrenchment, refusal, without dabbling in our own matter in the first instance. Sir, the salaries of the higher officials falling within the non-voted items in the Budget are high, indeed much too high, but our Hon'ble Ministers are not willing to accept any lower salaries. It may not be improbable that serious objection might be taken by my brother Councillors on the same ground in so far as the question of the reduction of the travelling allowance is concerned. We must substantiate our own arguments by our own actions and deeds. It is easy to say but it is difficult to perform. Let us prove to our countrymen that we have sacrificed our own interest for their sake. Let us prove that the lower scale of travelling allowances, if accepted, instead of degrading us in the eyes of the public will uplift us in our official position. Sir, the proposal cannot come *suo motu* from the Government. Because this does not concern them in the least. All what the Government say is, "For Heaven's sake, do not lay your hands on the reserved subjects!" The Government's interests are all reserved. You have no right to usurp them.

Let me, however, recite the poem—*Khud gunira, kera ra habari khunod* ("How can the man who is belated himself, guide others who are placed in the same position?") What is the good of crying aloud, and trying to cut others' interests, when we cannot cut ours? Then there is another poem which runs thus:—

Átmachhidrē jao nidrē
Santi kotha párona
Virek oshudh kabhu
Chintá khalē meraná
Nijer kuniti prati
Náhi mátra tárana
Pailē parēr dosh
Konamatē chharaná.

That is to say in short, "Why seest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, and the mote that is in thine eye, thou seest not."

It is needless to say anything more on this subject. I think the best course left for me is to move a resolution in this Council soon and to express my views fully on that occasion.

Rupees 23,462 was budgeted for the year 1920-21. For 1922-23, Rs. 1,30,000 was budgeted. Having regard to the last year's expenditure under this head, I think the Budget estimate for this year is correctly calculated. Under the circumstances, I think there is no cause for moving a motion for reduction. But, Sir, I come to learn that Rs. 1,21,000 has already been spent this year under this heading, and there are some bills which are still pending. If the present system of granting travelling allowances be changed, I think Rs. 45,000 may safely be cut.

I may base my arguments on two lines. In the first place, the members ought to sacrifice their self-interests, and in the second place, the Government should amend the present procedure of granting travelling allowances.

Sir, originally Council meetings were held from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. Now the time has been changed to 3 P.M. to 7 P.M. When this change was introduced, I strongly objected on the ground that considerable sums of money will be spent under travelling allowances if the time is changed from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. to 3 P.M. to 7 P.M. Sir, that question has been decided on a resolution moved in this Hall. So it is not within my province to say anything on this point. But what I mean to say is this, that sometimes on meeting days, meetings are not held for some reason or other. Either there is no quorum, or there is some ceremonial occasion. On Saturdays too, meetings are not usually held. The result of all this is that it takes long to finish the Council business.

There are also instances where members are summoned for a day or two—nay, even for a few hours only. Take for instance, the 21st of November, 1921, when the Stamp Bill was introduced. The House, too, Sir, is not frequently adjourned, although it is quite possible for the House to finish the remainder of the legislative business in a very short space of time. I put in an application, not many days ago, signed by about 33 signatories to take up the non-official business of the Council, but my prayer was not acceded to. What was the result? The answer is plain. Much time was lost and a huge sum of money was spent. On Saturdays and Sundays and on those days when no meetings are held, several members of this House, if not all, leave the headquarters and proceed to their "sweet homes." In other words, it means that the system is so faulty in its character, so ruinous for a constitutional Government like this, that where Rs. 20 is considered enough in the shape of residential allowances to members, the Government have to spend Rs. 150 or thereabouts in the shape of travelling allowances. Forsooth, Sir, bankruptcy is bound to creep in at no distant date if this system is allowed to stand.

I do not like to take up the time of the Council. I hope, however, that the members will bear me out in all what I have said and I trust that Rs. 45,000 may safely be cut from the item under discussion. I may repeat, Sir, that if the members have no objection to the acceptance of my motion, and if, at the same time, the Government act wisely and proceed cautiously, which every civilised Government should do, large sums of money will be forthcoming and material economies will be effected not only under this head, but also under the several items of expenditure dealt within the Budget.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I fully support the views of my friend, the Shah Sahib. The very ground on which I supported the proposal for the reduction of the salaries of the Ministers I support this motion; and I hope that the mufassal members will not grudge the reduction of one-third in their travelling and residential allowances which will be the practical result of the acceptance of this proposal. It will, however, be a very good example shown. As we ask others to be economical and if we cannot ourselves be economical, how can we insist upon others to do it. I hope that the official members will not stand in the way. Of course, I know that the mufassal members are much interested in this matter, but I hope they will accept this reduction.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I beg to support this amendment.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I can allow you only two minutes.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I shall require only one minute. Speaking on a cognate amendment, I said that economy demanded that there should be a reduction in the matter of travelling allowances; and self-consistency demands that if we want to cut the travelling allowances of other people, it is only right and proper that we, the members of this Legislative Council, should be prepared to have our travelling allowances reduced. It is nothing but sheer consistency on our part that demands it. The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan gave us a piece of advice the other day, that we ought to bring in a general resolution in order to have the whole matter underlying the question of travelling allowances discussed and we shall act according to his advice. At the next session, we shall bring in a general motion. If we are at all going to be consistent in the matter of travelling allowances, it is only right and proper that we, the members, should have a cut in our own travelling allowances.

The following amendments were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: "That the sum of Rs. 1,30,000 which it is proposed to grant for the travelling and residential allowances to the members of the Bengal Legislative Council be reduced to Rs. 1,00,000."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: "That the demand for travelling allowance under '22E.—Legislative Council,' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I rather think that this is a matter with which we can better deal on a concrete resolution than on a general discussion connected with the Budget. It is perfectly true that the item of Rs. 1,30,000, which refers to the travelling and residential allowances of members of Council, is a heavy one and a very substantial increase on the sum which was previously expended under this head. It is obvious that this must have been the result, when the membership of the Council has increased four or five-fold and the sittings five-fold. Clearly the cost of allowances, if continued on the old scale, with this enlargement and these protracted sittings, is bound to go up materially: and the budget provision, assuming that we continue the present system, is, if anything, inadequate. So far as we can make out at present, we shall spend something like Rs. 145,000 this year, and if we have even longer sittings next year, we shall have to ask for a supplementary grant. Therefore, the real issue is whether we should continue the old system. We have got various proposals for altering it. Babu Surendra Nath Mallik has a resolution on the table that we should give second class fares instead of first class. He has another resolution, that in no circumstances should committee meetings be held in Darjeeling. Mr. Campbell Forrester wants to alter the system and give everybody Rs. 250 a month instead of travelling and residential allowances. So, it is clear that various members have put forward different proposals bearing upon the system as such. That being so, I put it to the Council whether it would not be wiser to discuss the merits when some definite alternative is placed before us. As a budget provision this amount is amply justified. If the system is changed, the expenditure will be less: but I think that the Council will find it easier to decide whether they wish to change the system when they are discussing a definite proposal like any of these three I have just mentioned. On these grounds, I think that we would be wise to retain this in the budget, and decide later, on these resolutions, the question, in which the mufassal members are mainly concerned, whether they should adopt a practice different from that which is now followed. If they do so, the expenditure will go down; if they do not, the expenditure will stand approximately at this figure.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Why do you not accept a reduction of the amount by one-third?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I cannot accept it for the reasons which I have been advancing for the last five minutes, namely, that the amount is not susceptible of the least reduction. If we alter the present system that is another thing, but before changing the figure let the Council decide what system it wants to substitute.

The motion was then put and lost.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved the following and delivered a speech in Bengali in support of it:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,500 under '22E.—Legislative Council—Hill Allowances,' be refused."

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: This provision is in respect of the allowances that would be given to members of the Legislative Department if they are called up to the hills in connection with any legislative business which might be transacted there. The Legislative Department is obviously in this matter the servant of other Departments, which require their services in the hills if they want to take up the preparation of any Bill there, as will very probably be the case this year with the heavy programme before us. In the old days the Secretary to the Legislative Department, and in fact the Assistant Secretary and some of the staff, used to move, as a matter of course, with Government for the period of the Darjeeling stay. Last year—and I again emphasise this as people seem to think that we have done nothing to curtail the cost of the exodus—I made most drastic reductions in the matter of the going up of the Legislative Department to the hills, and practically nobody was allowed to go up at all. This year, so far as we can see, there *will* be work that will be taken up in Darjeeling, and if so, some of the staff will have to go there and this small expenditure will be incurred. For this reason we cannot agree to a reduction. The fact too that the Legislative Department has been subjected to a very severe strain with our protracted sittings makes it deserving equally with other departments of whatever recuperation it may derive from a short stay at Darjeeling.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following amendments were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: "That the demand for house rent and other allowances under '22E.—Legislative Council,' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 1,35,300 under head '22E.—Allowances,' be reduced by Rs. 67,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 5,000 for an officer on special duty under head '22F.—Judicial, Political, and Appointment Departments—Salaries,' be refused."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand for clerks under Local Self-Government Department be reduced by Rs. 100."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 10,000 for an officer on special duty under head '22F.—Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments—Salaries' be refused."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: " That the demand for travelling allowance under ' 22F.—Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments,' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: " That the demand for Hill allowances under head ' 22F.—Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments,' detailed account 22F.—Civil Secretariat, be refused."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: " That the demand for house rent and other allowances under head '22F.—Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments, ' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: " That the demand for Rs. 84,000 under head '22F.—Allowances, ' be reduced to Rs. 42,000."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: " That the demand for the Hill journey charges under head '22F.—Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments—Contingencies, ' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: " That the demand for Rs. 88,000 under head '22F.—Contingencies, ' be reduced by Rs 44,000."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: " That the demand for the travelling allowances under head ' 22G.—Board of Revenue,' be reduced by Rs. 1,500."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: " That the demand for Hill allowances under head '22G.—Board of Revenue, ' be refused."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: " That the demand for house rent and other allowances under head '22G.—Board of Revenue, ' be reduced to Rs. 1,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: " That the demand for Rs. 6,650 under head ' 22G.—Board of Revenue—Allowances,' be reduced to Rs. 3,350."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: " That the demand for Rs. 860 under head '22G.—Lady Advisor's Establishment, ' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: " That the demand for Rs. 25,000 under head '22I.—Salaries, Establishment, etc.—Allowances, ' be reduced by Rs. 12,000."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: " That the demand for the purchase of elephants under head 'Contingencies, 22I.—Commissioners,' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: " That the demand for Rs. 59,550 under head '22I.—Salaries, Establishment, etc.—Contingencies, ' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: " That the demand for Rs. 48,000 under head '22I.—Steam-boat Establishment, ' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

The following amendments were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 6,600 for Under-Secretary and Deputy-Secretary in the Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments under '22F.—Civil Secretariat, ' be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 7,200 for an Assistant Secretary in the Revenue Department under '22F.—Civil Secretariat, ' be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 6,000 for an Assistant Secretary in the Local Self-Government and Education Departments under '22F.—Civil Secretariat, ' be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 7,800 for an Assistant Secretary in the Agriculture and Industries Departments under '22F.—Civil Secretariat, ' be refused."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: " That the demand for Travelling Allowance for Rs. 25,000 under head 22F., be reduced by Rs. 100."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: " That the demand for Hill allowance for Rs. 18,000 under head 22F., be reduced by Rs. 100."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech translated, is as follows:—

I move " that the demand for Rs. 23,00,000 for deputy and sub-deputy magistrates under ' 22J.—General Establishment ' be reduced by Rs. 1,85,000."

It will be seen from the statistics that the number of cases has fallen off considerably and will continue to fall off in future. There is no need, therefore, for aggravating the disease of deficit by increasing the salaries of these officers. These officers, Sir, are much better off than the poor people. Therefore, it is not desirable that these officers should gorge while the poor millions would famish. Some economics must be effected either by reducing the salaries of these officers or their number.

If we look at the figures for 1920, we find that Rs. 21,15,535 was sanctioned. All what I want is that this amount should be sanctioned this year too. The increased amount, *viz.*, Rs. 1,85,000 should be cut.

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): In the course of one or two recent resolutions exception was taken to the rates of pay which we give to deputy

and sub-deputy magistrates under the recent reorganisation. But I gather that the mover is not objecting so much to that, as on the ground that he thinks that our present staff is excessive and is susceptible of reduction. On that point I would ask the Council to take our advice rather than his. We deal day in and day out with details of this kind, and we know that, far from it being the fact that the district offices are overstaffed, we receive constant applications for strengthening them. As a matter of fact we run our establishment on the lowest basis compatible with such efficiency as is now attained, and in thinking that there is some excess which can be retrenched the mover is in error. For that reason I would oppose the motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I move "that the demand for Rs. 26,000 for Steam launch and Elephant Establishment under head '22J.—General Administration' be reduced by Rs. 7,000"

For the year 1920-21, the grant was Rs 19,428 and the grant proposed for the year under discussion is Rs 26,000. I simply move that Rs. 7,000 be reduced.

I do not want to say anything in justification of my motion, as I have already come to know that the feeling of the House is not in my favour.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I inquire whether it is for a white elephant or a black elephant?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: Sir, it is for a black elephant. The question may become very personal.

The increased provision under this head has been necessary owing to the increase in the pay of menials including those attached to steam-launch, boat and elephant establishments already sanctioned by Government on the recommendations of the Salaries Committee, and for meeting the cost of establishment for the motor-boat *Saugor* purchased for the use of the Subdivisional Officer of Diamond Harbour in the district of the 24-Parganas, but transferred to the Collector of Chittagong. It does not, therefore, seem possible to reduce the provision as suggested.

The motion was then put and lost.

The mover being absent, the following motion was deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 95,500 under head '22J.—General Establishment—Establishments' for Temporary Establishment, be refused."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move "that the sum of Rs. 2,30,000 which it is proposed to grant for clerks in the Treasury Establishment be refused."

We notice from page 24 of the Civil Budget Estimate that it is proposed to increase the grant under this head by Rs. 85,000 and this increase is proposed over the revised estimate for 1921-22. As no special reason is given and no explanation offered why this increase is necessary, I beg to move this reduction.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): I congratulate the Hon'ble Member on having discovered a mistake in the Budget. The item, the extra amount of Rs. 85,000, which he refers to, should have been shown as non-voted under the provision for revision of pay of ministerial establishment in accordance with the Salaries Committee's Report. It was due to a mistake in the Accountant-General's office that it was not so shown in the proper place. This sum will eventually come before the Council when the scheme is sanctioned, and I have no objection to leave it out now as suggested by the mover.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 4,000 under the heading '5A.—Charges of Administration—Temporary Establishment,' be refused."

I have taken up the question of temporary establishment in all branches and you will find on a reference to the Budget that it was only in the year 1921-22 that the provision under this head was Rs. 3,000 and this year it is proposed to provide Rs. 4,000. We do not find any provision in previous years, and in fact, I presume that there was no temporary establishment in the previous years, and in view of the fact that the treasury has been amalgamated with the Imperial Bank in many places, I do not think there is any necessity for temporary establishments. The work of the treasury has generally been reduced and for that reason I move that the amount be refused.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I can explain this matter very briefly. The reason why there was no provision shown in previous years is due to the change of classification. Sir Henry Wheeler went into that matter just now at some length and I need not repeat what he said. After several changes of orders we have been told finally that this is to go down under the head "General Administration." The sum of Rs. 4,000 which is provided here is for the temporary staff which is engaged at heavy times of stress in the treasury. At *kist* time, for instance, it is frequently necessary in heavy revenue districts to engage temporary clerks. Then, very often surplus treasure has to be sent from one treasury to another. Suppose Chittagong has got too much cash and Tippera has not got enough, then, under the Accountant-General's orders,

large sums of loose rupees have to be sent from one place to the other. That means that extra *paddars* have to be taken on to count the money. If we were not allowed to engage temporary staff, we should have to increase our permanent staff so as to allow for emergencies and that would be a very much more expensive arrangement. It is much cheaper to provide this small sum and let us put on men when they are required. As to the reason why this sum has gone up from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,000, that is due to the increase in pay on account of the report of the Salaries Committee. We are raising the rates of pay of our permanent staff and we shall have to make a corresponding increase in respect of the temporary establishments.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move "that the demand of Rs. 4,92,500 for travelling allowance under head '22J' be reduced by Rs. 500."

It is not for the reduction of this paltry sum that I am so anxious, but I simply bring it to the notice of the Council that it is high time that the real question should be considered in some detail. As far as I understand the present arrangement is rather on a liberal scale. Now that the officers are being properly paid and that the railway fares have increased, I think that the matter should be looked into with a view to retrenchment.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I think on a similar resolution to which I replied about the question of travelling allowance and to which a reference was made by the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr, we pointed out the rules about these travelling allowances and also the rates and classes admissible under the new rules. The proposed reduction of Rs. 500 is a small amount and, of course, from that point of view it would be immaterial whether the reduction is made or not, but I think if the question is really one of principle, it would be much better for the mover of the resolution to bring it up as a general question in this House. But I must for the reasons mentioned in connection with the other resolution oppose it, as we have provided for the amount considering our actual requirements.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

As the members were absent, the following amendments were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand for Travelling Allowance under head '22J.—Allowances' for Rs. 4,92,500 be reduced by Rs. 100."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 5,02,400 under head '22J.—General Establishment—Allowances,' be reduced by Rs. 2,50,000."

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY and Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 60,000 under the heading '22J.—General Establishment—Contingencies—B.—Other Contingencies (Law Charges),' be reduced to Rs. 50,000."

The following amendment was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 14,500 on account of fees for copies under '22J.—General Establishment—B.—other Contingencies,' be reduced by Rs. 3,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I move "that the demand for Rs. 60,000 for Law charges under '22J.—General Establishment—B.—Other Contingencies,' be reduced by Rs. 6,000."

Sir, for the year 1920-21, the grant was Rs. 54,477. I beg to move simply my motion.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The provision under "law charges" is required to meet the cost of pleaders' fees, etc., in civil and criminal cases of Government in the several districts of this presidency. Owing to the present situation, the criminal cases in the districts are gradually on the increase and the increased provision of about Rs. 6,000 over the actual expenditure of 1920-21 does not seem to be unreasonable. It does not seem, therefore, desirable to reduce any part of the provision under this head.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendments were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 4,000 for liveries to peons under head '22J.—General Establishment —B.—Other Contingencies,' be reduced by Rs. 500."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 50,99,000 under head '22J.—General Establishment,' be reduced by Rs. 5,00,000 from the sub-head 'Contingencies.'"

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 40,000 for travelling allowance under '22K.—Subdivisional Establishment be reduced by Rs. 8,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 42,000 under head '22K.—Subdivisional Establishment—Allowances,' be reduced to Rs. 26,000."

The original demand under the head "22.—General Administration," as amended, was then put and agreed to.

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): I move " that a sum of Rs. 84,16,000 be granted for expenditure under the head ' 24.—Administration of Justice.' "

The members must have noticed that the amount under item 3 has been increased under the head " High Court " in the revised estimate. Sir, this is due to the fact that there has been an addition of one judge to the staff of the High Court and also a sum of Rs. 50,000 per annum has been added for the preparation of paper-books. There is again a sum of Rs. 91,000 for the revision of the pay of the ministerial establishment.

As regards the additional judge, I must mention to the House that there has been a considerable increase in the institutions on the Original Side of the High Court. I think the increase this year has been by about 1,000 cases and it was considered necessary by the High Court that they must have an additional judge to cope with the work. I believe at the present moment there is a fourth Court sitting on the Original Side—which is quite unprecedented. It is only right and proper that those who have instituted cases in the High Court should not have to wait unduly long for the disposal of cases.

As regards the increases in the pay of the ministerial establishment, I should mention that this has been done on the recommendation of the Salaries Committee, and I do not think that this increase is open to reasonable objection.

As regards the preparation of paper-books, it is an old question. The House will remember that last year the demand under this head was refused by the Council. I need not go into the history of the matter. I believe that there is quite a number of members in this House who would like to speak on the subject. What I have to say now is that the demand or rather a portion of it—as much as was required for the time being—was restored by a certificate of His Excellency the Governor. The High Court had already started the establishment when the demand was made last year and it was considered desirable by the High Court and by the Government of India that this Government which had represented its views to the Government of India should continue the establishment, for it could be only decided, after sufficient experience had been gained, whether this department should be retained or not. It has now been in existence for the last one year, but the High Court is not yet in a position to decide finally whether the department should be discontinued. I may also state that one of the conditions upon which the Government agreed to the establishment of the Paper-Book Department is that it should be self-supporting; that is to say, whatever expenditure is incurred for the preparation of paper-books for the use of the learned judges should be paid for ultimately by the litigants themselves and that no portion of the charges should be laid upon the public revenue. That I think the House will agree is a perfectly just condition, and if this department is to be retained, steps will be taken to see that it is self-supporting.

Under the heading of law officers, it will be observed that we have budgeted for a smaller amount than in our revised estimate. It is very difficult in a matter of this sort to estimate to any degree of accuracy as to what the exact amount of expenditure will be. There has recently been a rather large expenditure under this head owing to a number of important cases in which counsel and pleaders had to be engaged and among those cases there were a number of political cases. But we hope that with the return of normal times we shall be able to keep down the expenditure so far as possible under this head, and I may assure the House that we are trying our best to see that this expenditure is kept as low as possible.

As regards one other item—that is the Civil and Sessions Courts, I think many of the members of this House, who are interested in the administration of justice in this province, know that for several years we have had to appoint a number of additional district and sessions judges, subordinate judges and munsifs. The work had been increasing until very lately. Lately there has been a slight decline, but one cannot say with any degree of confidence that it is likely to last. It will be found that the cases pending in the district courts in this province is still large, both the original suits and the appeals on the Civil Side and also the criminal work; the sessions cases especially do not show any substantial decline.

As regards civil cases, in 1921, there were 36,756 suits pending as against 37,330, in 1920 the appeals were 67,391 as against 71,504 and under criminal cases before the sessions court, the figure is 584 against 690 and the appeals and motions 812 against 102. It is true that the courts had been able to make some impression on the pending cases, still the number of cases on the files of different courts is very large indeed, and it is desirable that these cases should be disposed of as early as possible. The additional judges, district and sessions judges, sub-judges and munsifs have been working for some time and have been kept on as a sort of temporary officers. But as the House is aware, we have under contemplation a new scheme by which the cadre of the Bengal Judicial Service will be revised and it is to be hoped that there will be no more of these temporary sub-judges and munsifs and that most or all of them will be absorbed in a permanent cadre.

I move that a sum of Rs. 84,16,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "24.—Administration of Justice."

The following amendments were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 4,000 under '24A.—High Court Judges—Travelling allowances,' be refused."

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: "That the sum of Rs. 20,400 which it is proposed to grant under head 'Appellate Side—Registrar—Salaries,' be refused."

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, perhaps you will remember that we were going to have the meeting to-morrow at 1-30 P.M.; but it has now been decided that we meet here to-morrow at 2-30 P.M. and sit until 4-30 P.M.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I move "that the demand of Rs. 50,000 for High Court Paper-Books be refused."

So far as this matter is concerned it is an old question, and one that I moved last year and which was carried by a majority of 71 as against 35. There is practically nothing new to be said on the subject and I only beg to state that this demand is all the more unreasonable this year. Last year there was a promise held out by the High Court that the amount will be reimbursed from the fees received. This year there is even no such promise and there is very little reason shown that we should spend such an amount. The old system had been working ever since the late Sir Ramesh Mitter introduced it about 40 years ago and had been working well. Even during the war, the expense of paper-books in England did not go up from more than 1½ pence to 2¼ pence, whereas under the present system I find *i.e.*, under the present procedure introduced by the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim and the High Court, the expenses have gone up to 220 per cent. There is no reason why this extra burden should be thrown on us and why the High Court should undertake the preparation of these books.

There is another reason why I oppose this motion. It is said that it is the order of the Privy Council that the High Court should prepare the paper-books. As a matter of fact it is not so. Paper-books are not made by the vakils for cases in connection with the Privy Council.

They are made by the department—I mean the appeals which go to the Privy Council, and that has got nothing to do with the question at issue. All these were submitted before this Council last year. I find also, Sir, that the market-rate for a work of this kind is only Re. 1-0-0 per folio, but the Government wants Rs. 3-2-0 per folio. This is more than double—almost three times—and we should not accede to this request. There is also no reason shown why we, the members of this House, should throw out our deliberate opinion of last year which was expressed by such an overwhelming majority.

One thing more. Since last year, we have passed the Court-fees Act and that makes the matter more acute. The expenses of the litigants have been considerably increased by the passing of that Act, and therefore, we should not throw this additional burden on them as they have got to spend money on filing appeals on this and that. We have also to consider that the High Court is the last court or resort by the public and the people do not go there merely as a sort of luxury. They go there when they are hard pressed, and if we throw this additional burden on them it will be substantially adding to their difficulties and much more so now than what it would have been if it were done last year. In these

circumstances, there is very little or no reason why we should grant this sum of Rs. 50,000. The High Court is already spending too much. Whatever the High Court demands we have got to give them, but there should be a limit. The High Court is already demanding too much over the pay of the judges. We have every right to submit that when half of the province has been partitioned off, expenditure on this account should not increase. But yet this year also there has been appointed one more judge. I think, Sir, there should be a limit to forbearance and we cannot support these things. It is not necessary to accede to the *zid* from a certain quarter and it has got to be resisted. Our position is far stronger this year than it was last year and I think, therefore, that it should be our duty to refuse this grant and we must say that we cannot give this money under any circumstances.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Last year we refused this item. This year I do not know what the mentality of the House is. It will be decided as a party question, but I move it as I am not aware that there is any adequate reason why we should reject our decision of last year.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: I do not wish to deal with the subject at great length, but I wish to point out one fact that we are not only to grant Rs. 50,000 that has been demanded but we are to grant more. A large number of the hands from the Judicial Department has been transferred to this Paper-Book Department whose number is about 28 and the total amount of the pay is about Rs. 40,000 a year. Though the demand now made is Rs. 50,000 but, in actual effect, it will be Rs. 90,000. Sir, this matter was fully discussed last year and then we considered that it would be purely a waste of money if the grant was allowed. We were told last year that there were two items on both the debit and the credit sides; but I want to know what the actual income derived during the last year is. I understand that the total amount of income was about Rs. 8,000, but the total amount of expenditure was Rs. 50,000. I may be wrong, but still this matter requires clearing up. Thus we see that a large amount of money will be spent from the public revenue. Not only this but the litigants will have to pay higher rates of costs to meet the expenditure of this department. We have already raised the rates of the court-fees and, if this grant is assented to, the litigants will be shut out from the doors of the High Court. It will be hard upon the poor litigants. So I say that this grant ought to be refused.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: This matter should be considered in an impartial spirit. The question is this—Why is this Rs. 50,000 required? Is it not a fact that this is in consequence of the innovation of taking out the preparation of paper-books from the pleaders? If that is so, the Council would absolutely be in the wrong if they

throw this burden of Rs. 50,000 upon the people of Bengal because of the reforming fad of certain High Court Judges. The question is this—why should not only the Government be asked to pay more but why should the litigant people of Bengal be asked to pay more for the cost of paper-books? It is admitted that the cost of paper-books is, under the new rules of the High Court, about 50 per cent. more. Now, Sir, upon this matter I hope there will be no party feeling but people should vote impartially.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I associate myself with the observations of the previous speakers in supporting this amendment. I only add one fact, namely, that there was a budget of Rs. 1,30,000, and last year it was stated that the whole affair would be a self-supporting one. A comparison on the receipt side of this year will show that it is not. If that is so, without any further additional reason and on the face of the rejection by this Council of the amount asked for last year, what grounds are there for again asking the Council to grant Rs. 50,000 this year? If we pass this item, will it not be stultifying ourselves? I do not think that we can go so far. I think it has been clearly expained by the gentlemen who are very intimately connected with the High Court that there is hardly any necessity for this innovation which will entail larger cost and expenses to litigants—also bearing in mind that the High Court is the highest court which the people of the country usually go to. Is it one way of cutting down litigation? If that is so, we can grant the demand, otherwise not.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I regret I am not in a position to comply with the request of Babu Bishindra Nath Sarkar to supply him with figures. We have asked the High Court for the information, but it could not be got ready and we have not got the figures yet. So I am not in a position to say what actually has been realised. But I want the House to bear this in mind that this year the Paper-Book Department had to undergo many difficulties. There have been differences between the learned judges and the pleaders. Nor do I know if all the money has been realised yet and credited to the Paper-Book Department.

I made it clear to this House last year that we do not want to burden the public revenues of this province with this charge. We have proposed that the Paper-Book Department must be self-supporting, so that whatever is spent for the preparation of paper-books will have to be paid for by the litigant. So far therefore as the public revenue is concerned, the House need be under no apprehension that we shall spend more than what can be realised from the litigants. But as regards the other question, the question of differences between pleaders and the High Court judges, that I must say is a difficult question, and I do not wish to say very much about it, excepting this. I think the House will agree with me, that in a matter of this sort they ought not to interfere. The learned

judges have been complaining that the paper-books are not properly prepared, are badly printed and they find themselves in difficulty in following the cases that are argued before them.

Babu Surendra Nath Mallik has questioned this statement. He may be in a position to know more about the matter from personal experience. I do not know. I must also mention that as regards paper-books for the Privy Council appeals, it is the Privy Council which desired the High Court to have those books prepared under its own supervision.

I can of course quite see that it is perfectly natural on the part of the vakils to object to this arrangement as they themselves have been preparing paper-books for a long time past and it is also natural for them to think that the High Court ought not to have taken it out of their hands. But I submit that in a matter like this the vakils and the learned judges ought to be able to arrange the matter between themselves. The vakils have got to conduct their cases, and the learned judges are responsible for a proper decision in these cases and when they say that they cannot get along without the paper-books being prepared in the High Court's office, I think weight should be attached to that opinion.

As I stated in making the demand, the scheme is still in an experimental stage. If it is found later on that the department could not be made self-supporting without throwing an undue burden on the litigant, the Government would be prepared to represent to the High Court that they should give up the scheme. So far sufficient experience has not been gained in order to enable the High Court or the Government to come to a decision and I would, therefore, submit to the Council that it would not be advisable to intervene at this stage.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Is it not a fact that last year Rs. 8,553 was spent on this department and Rs. 51,509 roughly was realised?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I have already said that I have no information.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: Is it not a fact that a paper-book is seldom used by the Privy Council?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I cannot answer these questions offhand.

A division was then taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Mr. M.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhuri, Sir Asutosh.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Fanindralal.

Bose, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Mr Razaur Rahman.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhona.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chahdra.
Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Ray Chaudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Ray, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mahan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Saliaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed.

NOES.

Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Band, Mr. R. N.
Biss, Mr. E. E.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Deare, Lieutenant-Colonel B. H.
Duyal, Mr. H. P.
French, Mr. F. C.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Muir, Mr. R. H.
Parrott, Mr. P.
Raheem, Mr. Abdur.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abdur.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 46 and the Noes 33, the motion was carried.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: As the amount provided for the High Court has already been cut down by Rs. 50,000 the next motion cannot be moved.

The following amendment, standing in the name of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 8,89,000 on account of the High Court be reduced by Rs. 48,000."

The following amendment, standing in the names of Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur and Mr. Tarit Bhusan Ray, was, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 42,000 under the heading '24B.—Law Officers—Solicitor to Government,' be reduced to Rs. 30,000."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I move "that the demand for travelling allowances under head '24B.—Law Officers—Legal Remembrancer' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

I think there is hardly any necessity for the Legal Remembrancer to go to Darjeeling or any other place. So I suggest that the above reduction be effected in the amount asked for.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: As regards this motion I am able to accept it. As a matter of fact the amount budgeted for represents not only the travelling charges of the Legal Remembrancer but also of the Additional Legal Remembrancer whose office has now been abolished, and as the major portion of this grant is for that officer I am able to accept the motion.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I beg to withdraw my next amendment.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Hill Allowance under head 'Legal Remembrancer—detailed account No. 24B.—Law Officers' be refused."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I beg to withdraw the next motion also.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for house rent and other allowances under head '24B.—Law Officers—Legal Remembrancer' be reduced by Rs. 500."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I beg to withdraw my amendment.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 4,650 under head '24B.—Legal Remembrancer—Allowances' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

At this stage the Council was adjourned for 20 minutes.

After the adjournment.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 1,20,000 for fees to pleaders under '24B (Legal Remembrancer)' be reduced to Rs. 60,000."

I want to draw the attention of my friends here to page 67 of the Budget. They will find that there is a provision of Rs. 36,000 for the Advocate-General; Rs. 12,000 for the Standing Counsel; Rs. 42,000 for the Government Solicitor and various other allowances for the Legal Remembrancer; and for the Legal Remembrancer Rs. 36,000. The total allotment for the Legal Remembrancer and other officers is Rs. 1,07,000 plus Rs. 21,312. Over and above this there is a provision, lower down in the page, under the head "Fees to pleaders," of Rs. 1,20,000. That gives us a grand total of Rs. 2,87,512 for carrying out the law work in this city. If you turn to the next page you will find there is a separate establishment for the mufassal under which the total comes to Rs. 2,71,540 and there is a provision of Rs. 1,95,000 under the head "Fees to pleaders in criminal cases." The fees to pleaders in civil suits amount to Rs. 26,000; fees for the defence of paupers to Rs. 1,000 and so on.

A few months ago, when I moved a resolution for the amalgamation of the different police courts in Calcutta into one, I was suspected of doing so out of friendship for my lawyer friends. I think it may be clear, on the present occasion at any rate, that I had no such idea in my mind. I openly say in the presence of my lawyer friends that there is a feeling in the country that they are paid more money than what they deserve.

Whatever may be the feeling in this Council, I am prepared to take my stand on the charge and say that pleaders as a class are considered to be extortionate in their demands from the people of the country.

My information is that even in the most trivial of cases very senior pleaders appear in the court. What I would like to point out is that the work that is required from these very senior men can be easily done by junior pleaders and that at less cost. Of course I have no doubt that the High Court judges are impartial, but I am prepared to say that they look to the interests of the Government without sacrificing their impartiality. So where is the reason and justification for the Government appointing the best and the seniormost lawyers when the work can be done as efficiently with the help of junior pleaders who are not extortionate in their demands? This is one of my reasons why I have suggested that the pleaders' fees should be reduced to Rs. 60,000 since the junior pleaders can do the work more cheaply and equally efficiently than what these senior people do.

In this connection I would ask my friends to remember that law expenses are gradually going up and it is time that we, the members of the Legislative Council, should give the Government to understand that we are not in favour of increasing our law expenses without rhyme or reason.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I wish to make a very few observations on the subject. It is much to be regretted that the amount under the head "Fees of pleaders" is a very high one, but it is not for a doctor to come forward in the Bengal Legislative Council to say that the pleaders are extortionate in their demands an that they do not deserve the amount of fees which Government allows them. I suppose that statement is surely not acceptable by the members of the Bengal Legislative Council. Why and how their fees are high, is a question for discussion, and my learned friend ought to bring a resolution before the Council for discussion on the subject, but to go beyond that and to say in a rather categorical manner that the demand of pleaders is exortionate is thoroughly unaccountable.

I do not like to talk much on the matter because whenever I find myself standing on my legs, I am accused of talking on like a talking machine. I simply say that the statement of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur is most unjustifiable.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I am sorry to say that I must differ from my friend Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur. I think there is room enough for curtailment, to a certain extent of the pleaders' fees in muffassal for criminal cases. I do not like to go into details lest I might be tempted to give out facts which I have come to know in a way which will not justify me in giving them out to the Council. All the same, I am strongly of opinion that there is room for reduction under this head. I will simply draw the attention of the Legal Remembrancer to it and do nothing more.

Mr. H. P. DUVAL: I think Dr. Haridhan Dutt does not quite know what expenses have to be paid out of this budgeted amount of Rs. 1,20,000. In the first place, we have to pay the fees of the Government pleader and assistant Government pleader in civil cases in the High Court. Then there are the fees which have to be paid to counsel for prosecution of criminal cases in the Sessions of the High Court. The Standing Counsel gave up about a little more than one-fourth of his salary, and his salary was reduced two years ago to Rs. 1,000 a month on the understanding that smaller cases in the High Court Criminal Sessions should be taken over by junior counsel from the bar, and the fees for these cases have to be paid from this grant. Further, if an accused person is undefended in the High Court Sessions, the Legal Remembrancer provides counsel for him and that has to be paid for. Then there are the cases in which pleaders appear on behalf of the Crown before the Appellate Side of the High Court. The Deputy Legal Remembrancer, Mr. Orr, usually appears on behalf of the Crown and when he has not to be away from the court and when there is only one bench sitting it is quite exceptional that any fee has to be paid for engaging other pleaders. But if there are two criminal benches sitting or Mr. Orr is away at the Marine Court, the High Court is not going to stop its work because he is away or cannot appear in two courts at once. In such cases I have to engage other pleaders or counsel to represent Government cases before the High Court I would add that it is not the custom or rule in unimportant cases to brief a senior counsel. There are, too, murder cases in which the accused is too poor to pay for a pleader or a counsel coming before the High Court in appeal or reference, where a pleader or counsel has to be engaged at the expense of Government. There is another class of cases. Occasionally it is necessary to send counsel to a mufassal station for particular reasons to appear in a case or to appear in an appeal, and the cost of that has to be paid out of this grant. In the Calcutta Police Court Rai Tarak Nath Sadhu Bahadur is paid a fixed sum monthly to appear in cases, but when there is a great rush of work, as has been lately, and he is unable to do the whole of the work, other pleaders have to be engaged in Government cases and then fees have to come out of this grant. Lastly, besides his salary, Rai Tarak Nath Sadhu Bahadur gets Rs. 100 a month and Rs. 17 for a case by an

arrangement come to with Government for appearing on behalf of the Registrar of Joint-Stock Companies in Companies' cases under the Indian Companies Act; that too is paid from this grant. When you see how many things come in under this graut, I do not think you can say that this provision is at all excessive. I may say that in the present year up to this morning about Rs. 1,40,000 has been paid on this account.

The motion was put and lost.

The movers being absent, the following amendment was deemed to be withdrawn:—

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY and Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 1,95,000 under the heading '24B.—Law Officers—Fees to pleaders in criminal cases,' be reduced to Rs. 95,000."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move "that the demand for Rs. 1,95,000 for fees to pleaders in criminal cases under head '24B' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

My ground is not the same as that of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt, Bahadur, but I think, in criminal cases, the tendency nowadays is to appoint Government pleaders even in cases before deputy magistrates, and also to engage Government pleaders on daily fees in the mufassal for conducting section 110 cases. I believe that instead of engaging Government pleaders so often, Court Inspectors may be appointed, and, if necessary, they may be trained under the supervision of the Advocate-General or the Legal Remembrancer. It is indeed in that way the cost would be much cheaper, and it would not be necessary to engage Government pleaders in cases before the deputy magistrates.

In this view, I think, that there is room for economy and I propose that the demand be reduced by Rs. 25,000.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I want the House to bear this in mind, that this sum represents the legal expenses in the shape of fees to our pleaders for the entire province. As the members belonging to the legal profession doubtless know the Government have their own pleaders and Public Prosecutors to whom they pay a retaining fee, but that retainer is exclusive of the fees which they are paid for the conduct of each case. The retainer, as a matter of fact, is very small in proportion to the fees that are paid to the pleaders.

Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri complained that Government nowadays has been engaging pleaders even in cases of criminal prosecutions before a deputy magistrate and in cases under section 110. As regards cases before deputy magistrates there are many of them of considerable importance, and it is right that Government should engage

pleaders and give them the best help they can. Similarly, section 110 cases are sometimes of much importance, and I have known of cases in which tens of thousands have been spent; so I do not think it can be laid down as a general proposition that section 110 cases are not of importance and Government might neglect them.

There is one fact I want to impress upon the House, and that is that we do not desire to leave cases of importance to the charge of court inspectors. I think all professional men will agree that it is desirable that in cases of importance, a pleader should appear and conduct them instead of Court Inspectors. I can assure Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri that Mr. Duval, who is in charge of this department, is very anxious to keep down expenses as far as possible. He watches each case and decides on the merits of each case whether it is necessary to engage a pleader or not, and if it is not necessary, he refuses to engage a pleader. He engages them only when there is necessity. Latterly, of course, as everyone knows, there have been a large number of cases of a political nature in which it was found necessary to engage pleaders. We have budgeted for smaller amount than was actually spent, and I only hope that this amount will be found sufficient.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I accept the assurance given by the Hon'ble Member, and I hope that economy will be observed In that view, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: I move "that the demand for Rs. 2,20,000 under head '26E.—Presidency Magistrates' Court' be reduced by omitting therefrom the sum provided for two additional Presidency Magistrates and their establishments."

I understand it is in the contemplation of Government to reduce the strength of the Presidency Magistrates by one magistrate, as soon as the Munitions cases are over. Having regard to the circumstances, I beg leave to withdraw this motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move "that the demand of Rs. 2,11,000 under the head '24E.—Presidency Magistrates' Courts' be reduced by omitting therefrom the pay and establishments of one of the two additional posts of stipendiary magistrates."

We all know that this is a year of financial stringency, and every attempt should be made at retrenchment. There are at present four posts of permanent stipendiary magistrates in Calcutta; last year two extra posts were created and a member of the bar was temporarily appointed on a monthly salary of Rs. 600 in the newly-created posts in the Motor-car Court at Lall Bazar. Another gentleman, a member of the Provincial Service, was brought to give relief to the Chief Presidency

Magistrate on account of the Munitions Board cases. It appears from the figures that I have collected that in 1918 against 1,368, the total number of motor-car cases disposed of by the Presidency Magistrate was 1,182, in 1919 against 2,330 cases——

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You have already heard from Babu Jatindra Nath Basu that Government intends to reduce the number of Presidency Magistrates; so I think you will perhaps withdraw your amendment.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I have heard all that. My desire is to place these facts before the Council so that they may be taken into consideration when the time comes. My difficulty is unless I place all these facts and figures before the Council, there is very little chance of their being taken into consideration at the proper time.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: After hearing what the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim has got to say, perhaps you might withdraw your motion.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: This includes the Traffic Magistrate and the Additional Magistrate. As regards the Traffic Court, many members of this House will remember that the matter was debated at length on a previous occasion when the question was brought up in respect of the demand for his salary. The House knows that having regard to the many difficulties that arose about a year ago in respect of taxi-drivers and of motor-car traffic generally, it was decided to appoint a committee to go into the question. That committee made an elaborate investigation and came to the conclusion that, amongst other things, it was necessary to establish a traffic court. The matter was thoroughly discussed in the House, and the House came to the conclusion that a Traffic Court Magistrate was necessary, and they sanctioned the appointment. So that accounts for one of these magistrates, and I do not think the House will desire to reduce the demand in this respect.

As regards the other Additional Presidency Magistrate, the appointment of that magistrate became necessary having regard to the Munitions cases that were pending at the time. The Chief Presidency Magistrate had been engaged in hearing these cases, and a good portion of his time was so taken up; it became necessary to appoint an additional magistrate to help him. We do not propose to keep him on indefinitely. It may be necessary to keep him on for perhaps another six months by which time it is hoped that the Munitions cases will come to an end, and there will be no more need for him, and he will not be retained any longer. That is the position.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: After the assurance of the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim that the services of one of the Presidency Magistrates are going to be dispensed with as soon as the Munitions cases are over, do you, Rai Bahadur, press for your motion?

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I accept the assurance given by the Hon'ble Member, and beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I bring to your notice that it is past 7 o'clock, and there is a very high wind; it would perhaps be better for us to adjourn now.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I was just going to adjourn, but I wish to inform members that Mr. R. H. Langford James has been appointed to the panel of chairmen under rule 3, *vice* Sir Robert Watson Smyth resigned.

I would again remind the Council that the photograph of the Council members along with His Excellency, will be taken at Government House at 10 A.M. to-morrow.

The Council will meet at 2-30 P.M. and will sit till 4-30 P.M. to-morrow afternoon.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 2-30 P.M., on Tuesday, the 21st March, 1922, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 21st March, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 91 nominated and elected members.

The Budget of the Government of Bengal, 1922-23.

Demands for Grants.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:-

"That the demand for Rs. 1,00,000 for salaries of the District and Sessions Judges under head '24F.—Civil and Sessions Courts' be reduced by Re. 1."

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): As No. 180 should be taken up with the previous motion, I call upon Shah Syed Emdadul Haq to move it.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I beg to move "that the demand for Rs. 1,00,000 for District and Sessions Judges under '24F.—Civil and Sessions Courts,' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

It appears that there was no provision under this head for the year 1920-21 or 1921-22. So I am forced to come to the conclusion that this amount has been included in the Budget only this year. The number of cases in Courts have fallen off to a marked degree, and will fall off in future, especially when the Court-fees Bill has been passed into law. The number of trying judges were more than enough before. What is the need then of augmenting the numbers again? If the Hon'ble the Member in charge as also the other officers of the Government concerned keep an eye on this matter, surely the number of cases will fall off to a marked extent. The increase in the number of appeals is due to the want of discretion on the part of the subordinate judges and munsifs. I know this form personal experience. Some of these officers utter *Hari bol, Hari bol, Radha Govinda, Radha Govinda* in the morning, and pretend to be wholly religious. But I do not appreciate

what leads them to expedite the disposal of the cases. Undoubtedly, they will be in a position to satisfy their superiors by showing a large number of cases in the returns which, I presume, they have to submit to them (the superior officers); but this does not necessarily support the fact that these subordinate judges and munsifs are very capable and smart judicial officers. The result of this quick disposal gives rise to certain review cases and appeals, and in this way, the number swells. Under these circumstances, I beg to move that Rs. 50,000 be curtailed under this head.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I think that a strong case has been made out by Shah Syed Emdadul Haq for cutting down the demand. It is useless for me to go over the same ground again and I would ask the Council to accept the amendment.

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): I think that the Shah Sahib has brought forward this motion not clearly understanding what the demand is really about. This demand of Rs. 1,00,000 for District and Sessions Judges is intended to meet the salaries of the listed District and Sessions Judges, that is, those who are promoted from the rank of sub-judges to the post of District and Sessions Judges and those who are recruited direct from the profession. These men are already in the service; and if this motion were carried, it would mean that these officers who are already and have long been in the service would have to be dismissed at once. I do not think that the mover of the amendment realised at all the effect of it; otherwise he would not have attempted to bring this motion.

As regards the amount of work before the District and Sessions Judges, I think it is admitted that there has been a decline, but the decline has been very slight indeed. The High Court, which is responsible for the proper administration of justice, has got to see that the cases that are instituted and the appeals that are filed are speedily disposed of; and unless there is a sufficient staff of District and Sessions Judges their cannot be done. In regard to criminal cases and sessions trials, it is absolutely necessary that they should be disposed of as speedily as possible. That has, however, not been the case in the past. From the report on the administration of criminal justice for 1920, I find that the High Court is perfectly justified in asking for more Judges so that the sessions cases may not be kept pending for a long time as it involves the keeping of persons charged with offences in jail all the time.

I will just read a passage from the report under the head—duration of cases:—

> The average duration of sessions trials from the date of commitment to the date of the decision, rose from 47·6 days in 1919 to 58·8 days in 1920. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration.
>
> The duration of cases was highest in the district of Bakarganj (94·5), followed by Burdwan (90;6), the 24-Parganas (89), Mymensingh (78;3) and Murshidabad (62·6). There was a marked increase from 61 to 94·5 days in Bakarganj, from

61·9 to 90·6 days in Burdwan, from 42 7 to 78·8 days in Mymensingh, from 29 to 51 days in Jalpaiguri, from 36 to 57 7 days in Darjeeling and from 37·7 to 56·1 days in Pabna. On the other hand, there was a noticeable reduction from 62 4 to 4 days in Rajshahi and 43 9 to 32 days in Nadia.

So, except in two districts, there was an increase in the duration of cases in all the districts. I would therefore suggest to the mover to withdraw the motion.

On the motion being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Alay, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Sir Ashutosh.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.

NOES.

Ahmed, Mr. M.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Biss, Mr. E. E.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Deare, Lieutenant-Colonel B. H.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Rahim the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 21 and the Noes 25, the motion was lost.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I beg to move "that the demand for Rs. 5,00,000 for sub-judges, be reduced by Rs. 1,50,000."

My motion No. 180 was very reasonable. And although I did my best and advanced substantial arguments in support of that motion, I have been narrowly defeated in the division. Arguments, however potent, are, therefore, of no use in this Council. I, therefore, simply move that Rs. 40,000, which has been increased, should only be curtailed from this item. It may be pointed out that the grant for the year 1921-22 under this head was only Rs 4,60,000; whereas in the Budget year under discussion, the amount has been increased by Rs. 40,000.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: This is a mere matter of calculation and in this we are guided by the Accountant-General of Bengal. The

position is this: in the revised estimate for 1921-22, Rs. 4,60,000 is likely to be exceeded owing to increments drawn towards the close of the year. Further, a good proportion of the 48 sub-judges will receive an increment of Rs. 50 each during the next year, say, on the average for six months. This will increase the cost by about Rs. 8,000 and for the same cause leave allowances next year will be similarly raised. One can only guess the effect of it and I put it to the Council that these additions practically make up the budget figures. This is the calculation made by the Accountant-General of Bengal. Increments have already been allowed to sub-judges and the Accountant-General calculates that according to the scale, provision must be made for Rs. 5,00,000 instead of Rs. 4,60,000 next year. I must, therefore, oppose the motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I move "that the demand for Rs. 17,00,000 for munsifs, be reduced by Rs. 1,50,000."

The grant under this head was Rs. 15,00,000 only for the year 1921-22; whereas for the year under discussion it has been shown as Rs. 70,00,000. I fail to understand the reason for this sudden jump. Last year, during the Budget debate, I moved a motion for the retrenchment of the pay of the additional sub-judges and munsifs. I can assert, with confidence and with all the emphasis I can command, that the number of cases is falling off by leaps and bounds. I can assert that the number will fall off in future. Hence, to my mind, there is no necessity for an increase of expenditure in this direction. On the contrary, the grant may be reduced. My suggestion is that Rs. 1,50,000 may safely be cut down from this head.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The Shah Sahib seems to be under the impression that this budget consists of so many charitable doles and that we are at liberty to give away as much as we like in the shape of doles. That is not however the position. Here again, just like the last demand, the demand is based on the calculation made by the Accountant-General of Benagl. As the House knows, the pay of the munsifs has been recently revised and has been placed on an incremental basis. The increments have come into force and the Accountant-General says that the revised estimate will be exceeded inasmuch as it does not include the increments that will come into force at the end of the year. Besides, we have to take into account the increments that will accrue next year. So, making the calculation in that way, the Accountant-General had to increase the figure by Rs. 1,50,000. As the House also knows, we have to provide for 274 munsifs and that fact accounts for this large increase. I must oppose the motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I move " that the demand for Rs. 1,00,000 on account of the proposed appointment of temporary District and Sessions Judges, Subordinate Judges and their establishments, be refused."

What I gather from the figures at our disposal in the Budget and in the civil estimates is that the actuals of expenditure on account of civil and sessions courts for the last four years stand as follows:—

1918-19—Rs. 51,26,000;
1919-20—Rs. 53,20,000;
1920-21—Rs. 66,68,000;
1921-22—Rs. 70,09,000; and

that for the ensuing year, that is, from the 1st April next a sum of Rs. 78,42,000 has been provided representing an increase of over Rs. 8 lakhs. It will be seen, therefore that there has been a steady increase of expenditure under this head, and it has been said by the Hon'ble Member—if I have heard him aright—that it is a good sign of the times, according to him, that there has been a slight decrease in the number of cases before these courts; but the fact that there has been a marked falling-off in revenue from Stamps, I believe, confirms the general impression that there has been a falling-off in the number of cases and evidently the old number of judicial officers is quite sufficient to cope with the existing volume of work. What I find from the Civil List is that there are at present no less than 64 District and Sessions Judges and 68 Subordinate Judges in this Presidency, and if that is the correct number, I do not think that the creation of temporary District and Sessions Judges and Subordinate Judges is necessary—at least a strong case has not been made out for this. I think having regard to the fact that we have passed the Court-fees Act and the Stamp Act, which will come into operation from the 1st April, and having regard also to the apprehension that the enhanced court-fees will lead to a diminution of suits, which it is admitted have already decreased to a certain extent—although I believe to a considerable extent—and further in view of the fact that the non-co-operators have been very busy for some time past in their anti-litigation campaign and also considering the fact that the people are rather loath to go to court in the same manner as they were inclined to go before, and moreover having regard to the fact that we have an army of judicial officers in the country, and lastly, on account of the terrible financial stringency—I believe this amount is susceptible of reduction and I therefore move that the demand be refused.

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: Now that this Council has passed the Court-fees Amendment Bill, there will certainly be a decrease in the institution of fresh suits. So I do not find any reason for making the provision this year. The increase in the volume of judicial work must have been due to large number of arrests of non-co-operating volunteers

and cases caused by the settlement operations. The activities of the non-co-operators have now been stopped; and survey and settlement operations, I understand, will be limited. So I do not find any necessity for this demand.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I regret I cannot agree to this reduction proposed by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur because it will really interfere with the efforts that are being made now to reduce the arrears in the courts of judges in the province. Everyone who has been connected with the administration of justice will admit that for a long time past the list of arrears—the pending cases—has been extremely heavy, and public opinion was very strong, especially in the professional circles that every effort should be made to reduce these arrears. The High Court has been making an endeavour in this direction and so far has met with some success, by appointing some temporary judges to bring the arrears within a reasonable compass. Is there a good ground for stopping this process at the present moment? I submit not. I suggest that the process ought to be allowed to go on sufficiently long so that the arrears might be wiped out as far as possible. At the present moment we are not anywhere near that happy state of things, and it is therefore incumbent upon those responsible for the administration of justice to make adequate provision for District and Sessions Judges and other Judges so that the pending file may be reduced. I will just give you an idea of the amount of arrears in the civil courts. I have got the latest figures before me. The suits pending amount to no less than 36,756 and the appeals pending amount to 67,391. I submit to this House that it is not fair to the litigants that there should be such a heavy list of pending cases. The result is that those civil suits which are of a difficult and intricate nature, involving large amounts cannot be tackled from year to year. They have to be adjourned from time to time and the result is that some of the suits are of very old standing and they cannot be taken up. With this list of pending suits and appeals it is very difficult to suggest that we are yet in a safe position so as to be able to dispense with the arrangements which the High Court found to be necessary.

As regards criminal cases, I have read out the figures to this House showing how the duration of such cases has considerably increased in 1919 and 1920, and it cannot be said that this state of things has since then improved to an appreciable extent. I receive reports from various parts of the Presidency as to the number of persons awaiting trial in jails and I find considerable complaints by the Visitors of Jails that many persons are awaiting trial for several months together. Now that is a state of things which ought not to be tolerated, and I submit that money cannot be better utilised than in seeing that these cases are properly and speedily disposed of.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Last year it was said that owing to the arrears the temporary establishment was required. Are the arrears to continue from year to year?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: These temporary appointments have been continuing for several years. It was found necessary to make these temporary appointments because of the pending cases.

The motion was then put and lost.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I move "that the demand for Rs. 12,280 in connection with the opening of a new subdivision at Jhargram be refused."

The need for a provision under this head is doubtful, and the correctness of the account is open to criticism. I do not desire to take up the time of this Council by entering into details unnecessarily. But I might suggest at once that my motion be either accepted in full or partly.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I am glad to be able to oblige the Shah Sahib on this occasion. We have been able to arrange that the judicial work in this new subdivision should be carried on by one of the munsifs from the headquarters. We shall be able to spare a munsif to dispose of the work here and so it will not be necessary to make a new appointment. I am therefore agreeable to the grant being reduced to Rs. 960 which is the sum required for contingencies.

The motion, as amended, was then put and agreed to.

The following amendments were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 50,000 under the heading '24F.—Civil and Sessions Courts—Travelling Allowances,' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 8,000 under the heading '24F.—Civil and Sessions Courts—Calcutta Improvement Tribunal,' be refused."

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: "That the total demand for Rs. 61,85,000 under head '24F.—Civil and Sessions Courts,' be reduced by Rs. 15,00,000."

As the mover was absent, the following amendment was deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 3,000 under the heading '24F.—Civil and Sessions Courts—temporary establishment (Process-Serving),' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHÂN DUTT Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 14,400 under head '24 I.—Pleadership Examination Charges' be refused."

I find that this estimate is against Rs. 11,872 which was the actual for the year 1920-21. I fail to udnerstand why actually there has been an increase for an item which has been, admittedly found to be unnecessary and is going to be done away with. My information from those connected with the High Court is that it has been decided to do away with a portion of the work in connection with the pleadership examination, but nobody could give me any satisfactory explanation as to how it was that although the work was being reduced, the amount had gone up since last year to the extent of Rs. 4,000. That is one of the points which has puzzled me. Then I personally feel, and I find that there are a large number of men who also agree with me, that there is absolutely no necessity for continuing this rival law examination.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I think you are not entitled to speak on the question of the continuance of this examination.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: What I mean is that we have a large number of graduates of the Calcutta University who have taken up the law work of the country and over and above that we have the system of mukhtears who are examined by the High Court. Between these two different classes, there has been another class known as the P. L. and admittedly that class does not satisfy anybody and has been found unnecessary.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The Rai Bahadur thinks that the pleadership examination ought to be done away with. Instead of waxing eloquent over the subject he ought to have known that it has already been done away with.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: But the charge still continues!

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I will explain that when I reply.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: In that case, as I began by saying this has been rather puzzling to me in the absence of any definite information.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: In my opening speech on this budget I said plainly that so far as the pleadership examination was concerned, it has been done away with and we were going to reduce this grant as only the mukhtearship examination was left, that we were in correspondence with the High Court but until we finally heard from them we were not in a position to put down a definite figure. If Dr. Haridhan Dutt failed to hear me it was not my fault.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: If the pleadership examination has been done away with, then why is Mr. Graham getting Rs. 500 as Secretary to the Examination Board?

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I am sorry that I could not catch the words of the Hon'ble Member as I was sitting at his back. But I fail to understand why the Secretary's pay has gone up from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000. I do not want to go into further details, but I am disposed to think that the Hon'ble Member will sympathetically consider this matter and, in the circumstances, I beg to withdraw my motion.

Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN: I move "that the demand for Rs. 14,400 under head '24 I.—Pleadership Examination Charges,' be reduced to Rs. 5,000."

So far as I have been able to gather, the Pleadership Examination consists of two examinations—one the pleadership examination and the other the mukhtearship examination. From this year the pleadership examination has been abolished and now there is only one examination left, namely, the mukhtearship examination. So far I have been able to gather, the pleadership examination is held for two days, whereas in the case of the mukhtearship examination the candidates sit for one day. Consequently the cost of the pleadership examination is surely double that of the mukhtearship examination. We find from the Budget that last year the expenditure under this head was Rs. 13,000, whereas we find, now that the pleadership examination has been abolished, that a sum of Rs. 15,000, of which the voted item is Rs. 14,400, has been provided. So, speaking roughly, if we take one-third of Rs. 13,000 it will come to about Rs. 4,000. In that case, I think that the demand ought to be reduced to Rs. 5,000. I think there is no use keeping a Secretary on a salary of Rs. 500 a month. Some sort of temporary arrangement should be made and as the pleadership examination has been abolished, Government will find its way to meet the expenses of the mukhtearship examination with Rs. 5,000. I trust Government will accept my motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: We have been told by the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim that this demand is for the pleadership examination Although that examination was abolished two years ago, still the charge continues. Whenever we want facts, he cannot give them. Notice of this motion was given some three weeks ago, and questions were put on this subject, but still there is no information. This is not the first time that we cannot get information. With regard to another matter also he could not give us the information required. But these are quite different matters. What I want to say is that I do not understand why, after the pleadership examination had been abolished, there should still be a Secretary of the Examination Board on Rs. 500 a

month, unless it is for this reason that he happens to be the editor of the *Indian Daily News* and that his services are required for other purposes by the President of the Examination Board. For any purpose like this, the country must not be bled. I therefore think that this demand ought to be reduced to Rs 5,000 as proposed by my friend. If you want to go on with the mukhtearship examination, only, you can do it by all means with Rs. 5,000. This motion of Maulvi Hamid-ud-din Khan is a very proper and legitimate one and it ought to be accepted by the Council.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I support the motion of Maulvi Hamid-ud-din Khan, and, in doing so, I want to say one or two words. Briefly speaking we, the members of the Council, are not in possession of all the facts accessible to the Hon'ble Members and Ministers, and I think it will be a great convenience to us if the Hon'ble Member, without in any way carping at the resolutions that are brought forward, would kindly suggest, as he has himself suggested, though not happily, that this demand might be reduced to some extent, owing to the fact that the pleadership examination has been abolished; and I think there will be no difficulty in accepting his suggestion and getting through the discussion.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am one of those men who doubt the wisdom of doing away with the pleadership examination; but I understand that that has already been done for reasons which are quite inexplicable to me. Now, what remains is the mukhtearship examination, and that being so I am quite sure that the department will certainly make certain reductions in the expenditure. But that must be left to the head of the department. It cannot be said that because the reason given is that there should be reduction Mr. Graham must be dismissed. This is a reason which is absolutely untenable. These personal questions which are brought here simply lower us in the estimation of the outside world.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I am really sorry that such a long debate took place over a matter which ought not to have taken five minutes of the Council's time. In my very opening speech I said that as regards this entry, it was provisionally made, because we were not able to get any definite information as regards the scheme that would become necessary for the one examination left, *i.e.*, the mukhtearship examination, and I said that it would be possible to reduce the demand in this respect very substantially. That is all the information that was at the command of the department. As regards the complaint of Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik that I have not been able to give him information, I simply say that I had no further information to give and that I cannot manufacture information. But I say this, now that one examination—the principal examination—has been done away with and there

remains only one examination, the less important examination, the present arrangement has to be altered accordingly. A scheme has to be framed, but that can only be done by the High Court. This necessarily will take time, as the learned Judges have other work to do and it is not the fault of this department that we are not in a position to tell the Council when the scheme will be ready. I am prepared to accept the motion of Maulvi Hamid-ud-din Khan to reduce the grant to Rs. 5,000

Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur's motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Maulvi Hamid-ud-din Khan's motion was then put and agreed to.

Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY: I move "that the demand for Rs. 84,16,000 under head "24.—Administration of Justice," be reduced by Rs. 3,75,000."

I propose this reduction on the general principle of retrenchment. Administration of justice is one of our great expensive departments. Its expenditure far exceeds its receipts as it naturally should be. We can never expect it to be a self-supporting or paying department. The demand is for Rs. 84,16,000; my motion is for a reduction by a comparatively small figure of Rs. 3,75, 000. Sir, trusted as we are with the purse-strings of the nation, it should be our endeavour to practise the strictest economy; and we must remember that only a week before, we were under the painful necessity of imposing fresh taxations to meet our deficit, so that it should be our aim to save every farthing we can because it comes from the pocket of the overtaxed people of this country. Rupees 3,75,000 can never be a negligible sum for a Government whose total surplus does not exceed Rs. 20 lakhs a year.

Now to turn to details, I beg to point out that there is a post of a Deputy Administrator-General with a salary of Rs. 15,000 a year. Sir, I admit that the office of the Administrator-General is a very responsible one. But he has got a huge establishment of 70 clerks to help him who cost us over Rs. 86,000. The post of a Deputy Administrator-General is only that of an assistant. The Personal Assistant of Divisional Commissioners, often Senior Deputy Magistrates, do not get more than Rs. 500. Senior Munsifs are given about the same salary. On these grounds, Sir, I consider the Deputy Administrator-General to be a very expensive assistant, and venture to suggest that this post should be abolished if possible.

In spite of what has fallen from the Hon'ble Member in reply to Shah Syed Emdadul Haq's motion, I venture to say that there is absolutely no justification for sanctioning additional District and Sessions Judges because there is—

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You cannot refer to that. That has already been dealt with.

Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY: There is a demand for Rs. 1,50,000 for nazirs and others of the civil and sessions courts. It

is interesting to note that, like all other heads of expenditure in the Budget, this figure, too is gradually increasing. It was about Rs. 1,20,000 in 1920-21, Rs. 1,36,000 in 1921-22, but this time it has reached the decent sum of Rs. 1,50,000. Sir, my lawyer friends in this House, who hail from the mufassal and have experience of mufassal courts, will bear me out that the head nazir in the Judge's Court is a very influential personage with a number of appointments in his gifts, with which he often patronises his friends, relations, and humble admirers and our Government have to pay for them. So I propose that this demand be reduced by Rs. 30,000 to bring it to the figure of 1920-21. Sir, it is well known that these appointments are very lucrative hence attractive.

There is a demand for Rs. 12,64,000 for peons in the process-serving establishment in the civil and sessions courts. This is a provision for 5,598 peons, *i.e.*, about 215 peons in each district. I venture to suggest that it be reduced by Rs. 50,000—this would deprive each district only of 8 peons. Sir, I think the average vacancy is calculated at 15 per cent. so that there should be at least 30 vacancies in each district annually. If the actual number of vacancies fall short of the number, some of these 8 men may be transferred to other offices in the district, to fill up vacancies there.

I also beg to suggest that the demand of Rs. 19,22,500 for clerks, including provision for revision of pay of ministerial officers, be reduced by Rs. 1,17,000. This would deprive each district and sessions court only of 6 clerks, the total number being about 145. Sir, calculating at the rate of 15 per cent., the number of vacancies out of 2,386 appointments should be at least 357. My proposal does not exceed 145 in all. Similarly, Sir, if the number of actual vacancies in the civil and sessions courts fall short of 6, some of them may be transferred to other offices in the district to fill up vacancies there. Then there will be no difficulty in providing these permanent servants of the Government, at the same time there will be a saving of Rs. 1,17,000.

In this way, we can easily save about Rs. 40,000 a year without doing any injustice to the Department of Justice.

As regards the motion of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, I want to say that his was for the reduction of Rs. 50,000 only, whereas my motion is for a total refusal. Thus we can easily make a saving which is not a very negligible figure to Government whose surplus does not exceed Rs. 20,00,000 a year.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I rise to oppose the motion which has just now been moved by my hon'ble friend. He has asked the Council to cut down a very large amount probably on three grounds, so far as I could understand. He has asked the Council to cut down the pay of the Deputy Administrator-General and then there is another ground, namely, so far as the appointment of sessions judges and subordinate

judges are concerned, he was ruled out of order because that point has already been decided by the Council. The only other point which has been pressed by him is that the nazirs and civil court peons are in his opinion redundant and, therefore, their number should be cut down and in support of his argument the hon'ble member has said that he has got some experience of mufassal courts. Therefore, he was in a position to say something on the matter. I have also, Sir, some experience regarding these mufassal courts and I can speak with some accuracy regarding this matter. Everyone knows how even the execution proceedings are being delayed for months and months though there are civil court peons and nazirs. We also find that processes in original suits are not being served in time, though we have a sufficiently large number of peons. We also find that notices in the appeals are not being served in time, though we have a sufficiently large number of these officers. I think, Sir, as I have been able to gather from the Budget, that the present demand is based on the actuals either of the last year or on an average of the actuals of the last three years. If that is so and if my reading is correct, then a difficult question will arise as to how the services of these officers are to be dispensed with. The hon'ble member suggested that whenever there would be any vacancy, they might be transferred to some other department. All the same, they have got to be maintained either as orderlies of the subordinate judges or as process-servers. They have got to be retained anyhow. It is impossible to dismiss them. Certainly they expect pension; they are permanent incumbents and if they are dismissed they are entitled to sue Government for their dismissal. The only wise suggestion that could be made was that if it is found afterwards that a sufficient number of peons or process-servers and nazirs would be quite enough to meet the work of a particular district, then further appointments should not be made. In fact, there is no new provision in the Budget for a new appointment. Simply actuals are provided. If that is so, why should there be any reduction? Therefore, it seems to me that in view of the case, it is not just, fit and proper at the present moment, especially when the work in the civil courts is still accumulating and the work is still very great, that the number of process-servers and nazirs should be reduced to the great inconvenience of the public.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I rise to support the resolution, which has been moved by my hon'ble friend over there, and that for two reasons. First of all, I desire that the attention of this House should be drawn to this item of expenditure, that the administration of justice cost us nearly a crore of rupees and it embraces some six or seven pages of the Budget. Sir, it is well known and I believe it is admitted by everyone of us, non-official members, that it is impossible for us to make any specific recommendation for the reduction or retrenchment of expenditure, having regard to the fact that we know nothing of the inside of the departments. We are simply groping in the dark

and working under a disadvantage, and although we are trying for some time to find responsive voices from the official benches, yet we must confess that we find it difficult to make any specific recommendation in any particular case. Nevertheless, the discussion, which has been raised, is an important one in this respect that we believe that these establishment charges are very large and if there is an endeavour to see that retrenchments ought to be made then, I think retrenchments can be made in these charges. Let us take one or two items—the posts of Administrator-General and Deputy Administrator-General. These are two highly-paid posts and carry exchange compensation allowance along with them. Of course, I must say that I am not alluding to the question from a racial point of view, but what I mean to say is this: that it has been decided that as far as possible Indianisation of the services should be insisted upon. And if these posts had been filled by Indians, no exchange compensation allowance need have been paid. That matter may as well be considered by the Government and the Hon'ble Member in charge.

There are various other items which are difficult for us to criticise. But as regards temporary appointments here and there, it seems that we are still working on the arrear system. I believe we shall never see the end of this. In 1931, when the Parliamentary Commission will come out, they will still find the arrears accumulating. I think the attention of the Government should be directed to this matter.

I do not know if, even with his sincere desire, the Hon'ble Member in charge can effect any retrenchments. Whatever figures and papers are placed before him, he has got only to pass orders on them from here or Dacca or Darjeeling. But if he insists and says " for this particular establishment and for this particular district I shall allow so much and nothing more; and if they prove it to be impossible to carry on the work therewith then I shall recommend to the legislature to grant an additional man, " then I think some economy might be effected. If such a procedure is adopted and if the officials concerned are asked to make out a case for additional grant, then I think a good deal will be achieved in this direction. Sir, from my humble experience in the Corporation, I find that when it is hopeless to make any retrenchment, with the consent of the executive, we cut down certain items and say that a supplementary list must be prepared showing the reason for the additional expenditure and having seen that the particular amount is required, we sanction the expenditure and in this way we do effect a certain saving. Sir, unless this is done, it is no use for us to come here once in 12 months and ask the Government to cut down expenditure. We are not *sabjantas* or omniscient beings, and this is not child's play either.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I think attention should first be drawn to the very large amount of money which we have got to spend in this branch of the administration. The amount is very large—there is

no doubt about that. Anybody who has got mufassal experience will quite see that. My friend Mr. Syed Nasim Ali has said that he has got mufassal experience, but his mufassal experience, I am afraid, defeats his own argument. He says that there are a large number of process-servers and yet it will take a long time to serve processes. He says that although we have a sufficient number of people to do things yet we do not get work out of them. Why? Because the system is vicious. Execution of decrees is delayed. Why? Because the system is vicious and faulty, because if the men on the opposite side spend a little money the thing can be delayed. The whole system is rotten. Sir, everyone knows that new trials are always happening. And in one case at least I know that there was a new trial in the Calcutta Small Cause Court for the sixth time. It is being done every day and everyone knows it. Why? We have got no dearth of men as the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim knows. Processes are never served or served to the wrong person and what is the result? There is a new trial. The whole thing has got to be looked into.

We have so many cases pending and we are told, therefore, that we must add to the staff of trying judges. Does the Hon'ble Member in charge know that there are judges—I speak in the presence of ex-judges—who do not come to court before 12-30 and go away at 4 o'clock with a recess of at least 30 minutes? In Alipore, where there are I.C.S. district judges, I know of one at least who does not come to court before 1-30 P.M. That is how cases accumulate and if for such accumulation of cases you are going to add to the number of judges, the thing will go on for ever. If the officers know that they are going to have additions to their numbers they will naturally do less work. Therefore, Sir, the whole thing must be revised. If you see for yourself what these officers are doing, I do not think any further addition need be made to their staff. But these are the things which require personal supervision. Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has rightly said that you cannot do it if you are away from Calcutta for the best part of the year. You give us figures saying that so many appeals and so many cases are pending, but if you inquire you will know that very little work is being done where much more work ought to be done.

You have increased the salaries of munsifs, and the munsifs, who were getting Rs. 300, now get Rs. 500. Thus he is a *barasaheb* and that he must do less work. That is how cases accumulate. We have long been administered by the tyranny of figures. That must cease now. We ask you to cut down expenditure. We are already wasting too much money. You must see things for yourselves.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Some retrenchment is possible and the Hon'ble Member in charge should see that, wherever possible, he should cut down expenditure. Sir, in making temporary appointments——

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: We are not discussing temporary appointments.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I was only suggesting something. I think some savings might be effected by doing away with *muharrirs* and others, and I hope that the Hon'ble Member will see whether anything can be done. With these words, I support the motion. I may say that so much economy is not possible, but I say that an attempt should be made to effect some economy.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: This is a case of swallowing a camel and straining at a gnat. Sir, my friends Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, Babu Surendra Nath Mallik and Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray—(Cries of: "No, no, he has not spoken at all")—to all those gentlemen we owe, the country owes, an additional burden of Rs. 60 lakhs a year and three Bills of taxation (Cries of: "Order, order").

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: We are not discussing that question.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: They gave an increase of salary to ministerial officers and peons to the extent of Rs. 60 lakhs a year and they now want to cut something out of it. The question is how can you cut down so many lakhs a year when you have already granted them to the ministerial officers and peons, but you will perhaps say—"Oh we have gone too far, now let us reduce it by half or a quarter by dismissing a large number. Sir, that should not be the attitude towards the poor. We have got 10,000 men in the ministerial and menial ranks. Do you want to turn out 5,000 men in the streets for giving increases to the rest? That is what it amounts to. Now, Sir, this is the sort of thing under which the country is suffering and will suffer if these gentlemen are allowed to go on in this way.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: It has been said that there is a considerable need for retrenchment in the department of administration of justice in my charge. Well, it is very difficult to meet an allegation, a very—general allegation—of this kind. One can only deals with any specific point that is raised and about which one had an opportunity of meeting the objections. But so far as the general desire has been expressed that I should look into the question whether there is any chance of effecting retrenchment in the department, I can only give the hon'ble members my general assurance that as a matter of fact I am fully alive to this aspect of the question, and I do look into every matter that comes to my notice. But I do not think any reasonable member of this Council will expect me to dismiss off-hand a large number of men because we are all actuated by the desire for retrenchment, for that would be the effect if the motion is carried by the Council. If any of the hon'ble members is in a position to suggest any particular scheme by which substantial economy can be effected in this department without injuring

its efficiency, I am perfectly sure that the High Court as well as the Government will give their best attention to it. I therefore suggest that the best procedure to be adopted in a matter of this sort is to proceed by way of resolution. If the gentlemen, who want to effect retrenchment and have any practical schemes to suggest, will put forward their schemes in the shape of a resolution—some concrete proposals which could be dealt with—then I can assure them, on behalf of the department, that we should be willing to give our best consideration to them and see how far they can be acted upon. But surely everyone will agree that it is not practicable or desirable; it would not be right, it would be perfectly wrong, to turn out numbers of men simply because you think that the administration of justice requires retrenchment. All the cuts that have been proposed amounting to Rs. 3,75,000 mean that you are to turn out from office at once a high official like the Deputy Administrator-General, you have to turn out a large number of clerks, nazirs and peons. Is that a proposition which the House will entertain for a moment? I trust not.

As regards the Deputy Administrator-General, the mover is under the mistaken impression that he is merely an assistant in charge of the office. That is not so. He has got large administrative powers and he is a colleague of the Administrator-General in administering what is a very important department. The Deputy Administrator-General is a Solicitor and I think this House knows—at least the public know—that this office for some time past had not been properly managed. It had to be reorganised and has been reorganised with considerable success by the present Administrator-General and the Deputy Administrator-General. The office was working at a considerable loss, and there were very great complaints as regards the manner in which the work was being done. But since Mr. Kinney and Mr. Carey Morgan have taken charge of the office, the office has been put into an efficient condition. Instead of loss, now after all the expenses have been met, there is a substantial saving. Surely that is not a ground for turning out the Deputy Administrator-General.

As regards the nazirs, clerks and peons, all sorts of allegations have been made against them. I have not the least doubt that some of the men are not of the right sort, but surely allegations like these ought not be made publicly against a large class of officers unless one is in a position to substantiate them. It is no body's case that every nazir or every peon is a dishonest man. I submit that it is not right to cast aspersions by bringing general and vague charges against the officers as a body. I suggest that this Council should not attach any importance to these allegations in dealing with the question at issue. I do not suppose for a moment that the District Judges, Sub-Judges and Munsifs, who are responsible officers, do not know how business is carried on in their courts by these men and it is a strong proposition to suggest that the Subordinate Judges, Munsifs, District Judges, and the High Court

Judges who are all intimately concerned with administration of justice have not been making proper efforts to suppress any malpractices that there may be. Is it a feasible proposition to suggest that the Government should be able to find out these malpractices if the learned judges are unable to detect them—

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Then we are helpless.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: There are certain things which we have to put up with. I submit that the proposition before the Council is not a reasonable proposition at all.

If the hon'ble member, however, comes forward with a definite scheme of retrenchment, I shall be very glad to consider it, provided he puts it forward in the shape of a concrete proposition. Then we shall see how far it can be given effect to.

Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY: In view of what has been said by the Hon'ble Member in charge, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 84,16,000 for expenditure under the head " 24.—Administration of Justice, as amended, was then put and agreed to.

25.—Jails and Convict Settlements.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM): I move " that a sum of Rs. 37,21,000 be granted for expenditure under the head ' 25.—Jails and Convict Settlements."

In moving this proposition, I should like to ask the permission of the House to make a short review of the administration of this department during the year 1921. I do so in view of certain allegations that have been made. It is certainly a matter which ought to interest the hon'ble members of this House. The jails during the year under review have been extremely overcrowded owing to the influx of political prisoners. Almost all the jails in the province suffered from overcrowding and I will quote certain figures to the House to give an idea of the overcrowding.

Excluding the hospitals and observation cells, the central and district jails have 10,546 males and 373 female convicts: 1,058 males and 146 females under-trial prisoners. Including the three jails the average population was 12,329, of which 12,145 were males and 184 females. The under-trial prisoners amounted to 1,189 males and 15 females.

We wanted to relieve the serious overcrowding in the Calcutta jails owing to the admission of non-co-operation prisoners and a temporary

jail had to be opened providing accommodation for 1,000 prisoners at Kidderpore, but in spite of this, the Presidency, Alipore and Central Jails remain seriously overcrowded. I am glad to be able to inform the House that, although during the year 1921, the jails have been so badly overcrowded yet the health of the prisoners has been remarkably good and the mortality is the lowest on record for some time past. In 1918, the daily average of sick was 57·4 per mille, in 1919, 55·2 per mille, in 1920, 52 and in 1921, 45 per mille.

As regards the death-rate in—

1918 it was 23·3 per mille,
1919 it was 22 per mille,
1920 it was 20 per mille,
1921 it was 16 per mille.

As regards diet of the prisoners there has been an improvement in this respect that a large number of prisoners have chosen wheat instead of rice with the result that there has been a reduction in the cases of dysentery and diarrhœa.

I am glad to be able to inform the House that there was not a single death from cholera during last year and there was only one case of cholera throughout all the jails.

As regards disciplinary administration, I am glad to be able to inform the House that there has been a reduction in the number of jail offences and jail punishments. The infliction of whipping, which is the severest punishment under the Jail Code, has declined from 61 in 1920 to 33 in 1921, a substantial decline on which, I think, the jail officials should be congratulated. This decline is also partly due to the fact that Government had issued a circular to the effect that this form of punishment should be restricted to cases of mutiny, incitement to mutiny and serious cases of assault on jail officers, while in the case of political prisoners the punishment is not to be inflicted without the previous sanction of the Government. It has also been ordered that the award of punishments of bar-fetters and hand-cuffs should be sparingly used in the case of political prisoners. Metal discs have been abolished and leather identification tickets and suspenders have been substituted. Pending the introduction of reforms in the prisons regarding simple and rigorous imprisonment, the rules for the treatment of what are called special class prisoners have been sanctioned. They are applicable to those prisoners to whom having regard to their education and standard of living, it is thought undesirable to apply the treatment provided in the Jail Code for ordinary convicts. Transportation to the Andamans has been stopped and all political prisoners in this province have been brought back from the Andamans and 26 other convicts on medical grounds have also been brought back. In view, however, of the overcrowding caused by the large number of non-co-operation prisoners, the Government of India have recently decided that prisoners sentenced to transportation should, if

necessary, again be sent to the Andamans. All female prisoners who are now in the Andamans will be brought back as far as steamer accommodation permits.

To meet the religious demands of Muhammadan convicts, they have been provided with long trousers instead of shorts, while honorary Muhammadan preachers have been appointed for giving moral and religious instruction to Muhammadan prisoners on Fridays.

The burial of dead Muhammadan prisoners according to Muhammadan customs at the expense of Government has been sanctioned. Sikh prisoners have been allowed to retain their *kirpans* and facilities for religious observances of various castes have been allowed in all jails.

Female non-official visitors have been appointed for Presidency, Alipore and Bankura jails.

Orders are about to issue providing lighter buckets for the under-trial prisoners to carry water.

I would also mention here the resolutions that were moved in this Council regarding jail administration and the effect that has been given to them. We received 15 resolutions, of these four were for appointing Muhammadan preachers for imparting religious instruction, one for the issue of long trousers for Muhammadan prisoners, one for burial of Muhammadan prisoners, four regarding treatment of political prisoners, one for the appointment of members of the Council as visitors of jails.

Government have already issued orders for the supply of long trousers to Muhammadan prisoners and burial of dead bodies at the expense of Government. The resolutions regarding the appointment of members of this Council as visitors of jails are under consideration of Government and though the recommendations of the Council for the treatment of political prisoners, as intimated in the official gazette, have not been accepted by Government in their entirety, it has been decided to form a special class of prisoners. There are various other schemes under contemplation of the Department, but I do not think I should take up further time of the Council in describing them as there are many members who want to move their motions.

The following amendment, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs 4,000 for travelling allowances under '25A.—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

The following amendment, standing in the name of Babu Fanindralal De, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for travelling allowance under head '25A.—Jail Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

The following amendments, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for the Hill allowances under head 'Superintendence detailed account No. 25A.—Jails' be refused."

"That the demand of Rs. 1,000 for travelling allowances of non-gazetted officers under Presidency Jail, be reduced by Rs. 500."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I move "that the demand for Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowances of non-gazetted officers under head '25 A.—Central Jails' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

I have already expressed my desire that the Hon'ble the Member in charge will kindly attach some importance, and give careful consideration, to this motion. Sir, I have come here to work for my own countrymen, and the Hon'ble the Member in charge is also here for the performance of the same noble cause. It was I who moved a resolution in this Council about the obsequies of the Muhammadans; it was I who moved a resolution about the *pyjamas* to be worn by the Muhammadan prisoners; and it was I too who moved a resolution about the engagement of priests in jail. I want to show you, Sir, that I am profoundly interested in jail affairs and that I cherish every sympathy for the jail convicts.

A provision was made for Rs. 2,000 for the year 1921-22; this year it has been increased to Rs. 3,000. As several members are not in favour of travelling allowances being sanctioned under this heading, I move that Rs. 1,000 be reduced; failing that, Rs. 500 will serve my purpose. I hope, Sir, that I should not be placed under the painful necessity of calling for a division if this motion is not agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I wish I could oblige the Maulvi Sahib by accepting this motion of his. But I am afraid I cannot do so. The amount asked for is an estimate of what the transfer of the subordinate officers of the jails is likely to cost during the coming year.

The last year's budget estimate was Rs. 2,000 but the actuals, as a matter of fact, exceeded the estimate; the actuals were Rs. 2,387. These subordinate officers do not travel of their own accord; they are moved from place to place according to the exigencies of the administration by the Inspector-General of Prisons who controls them. Having regard to the condition of the jails at present, a large number of prisoners has to be transferred from one jail to another. The prisoners cannot be transferred without somebody being in charge. For all these reasons, we thought that we might add a few hundreds more to the actuals of the last year. That was the reason for providing this extra amount.

The motion was put and the Deputy-President said "I think the 'Noes' have it."

The mover then asked for a division.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: I am fully privileged to call for a division. There are many members in this House who do not understand English as well. There are many members just at the present moment who are outside the four walls of this Chamber. Under these circumstances, I fail to understand, Sir, what reason could possibly have actuated you to summarily reject my prayer for a division. The fact remains that many members are not present here but are outside the Chamber: the fact remains that many of us do not understand what has been dictated by you in English; the fact remains that several of my European friends here do not understand Bengalee. (Cries of: "Order, order.")

The Deputy-President asked the gentlemen who were in favour of the motion, to stand up. Only the mover stood up and protested against this form of taking votes.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: As the Shah Sahib is standing by himself, I think I had better stand up.

The motion was lost, 18 voting against and two for it.

The following amendment, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 9,000 for travelling allowances of non-gazetted officers under '25 A.—District Jails' be reduced by Rs. 4,000."

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: I move "that the demand for Rs. 4,800 for a new sub-jail at Jhargram, be refused."

The construction of a new sub-jail at Jhargram is not so very necessary and urgent that it must be done during this great financial crisis. The under-trial prisoners and convicted ones may easily be taken to the Midnapore Jail which is not far off. Under the circumstances, I am not convinced of the necessity of this demand.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I do not know what it will cost. But it strikes me that the Hon'ble Member ought kindly to see if any retrenchment can be effected by enlarging this sub-jail at Jhargram for accommodation of non-co-operation prisoners in a healthy place.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): I understand the motion has been withdrawn; so I do not see the necessity for the Rai Bahadur making a speech.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I think the rod is in the hands of the President, and he would have put the rod on my head immediately if I am not in order.

What I ask is that instead of spending such a large sum of money (Rs. 1,00,000) for a jail at Kanchrapara, we might build one at Jhargram, which is a healthy place and quite close to Calcutta—only two or three hours' journey——

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: We are not considering the Kanchrapara jail. The question is with regard to the sub-jail at Jhargram.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I am suggesting that Jhargram is a commodious and healthy place. It can accommodate the convicts and agitators of the non-criminal classes. If the sub-jail at this place is enlarged, the Kanchrapara jail may be abolished and a saving might be effected. A jail in such a healthy and salubrious place like Jhargram could easily accommodate my non-co-operator friends and men like myself.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The jail at Jhargram is an absolute necessity as there will be criminal courts there and people charged with offences may have to be kept in custody. So there must be a sub-jail. I do not see how business can be managed without a jail at Jhargram.

The motion was put and lost.

The original demand of the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, as amended, was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M., on Wednesday, the 22nd March, 1922, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 22nd March, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 101 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

expenditure due to the revision of overseas allowances.

***XXXV. Babu FANINDRALAL DE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state what additional expenditure will be entailed during the year 1921-22 by the recent revision of the scale of overseas allowances of the members of the different Imperial services in Bengal, under Government of India notification No. 1559E.A., dated 16th August, 1921?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in a position to state approximately what such additional expenditure is likely to be incurred on this account for the year 1922-23?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): (*a*) The increase in expenditure due to the revision is as follows:—

		Rs.
Imperial Forest Service	...	500
Indian Civil Service	...	12,000
Indian Police Service	...	13,000
Indian Agricultural Service	...	500
Indian Engineering Service	...	500
	Total	26,500

(*b*) The expenditure during 1922-23 will be approximately the same as in the current year.

Whipping in Faridpur Jail.

***XXXVI. Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** (*a*) With reference to the Government *communiqué* regarding the flogging of

political prisoners in the Faridpur Jail, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state—

(*i*) in what capacity did the District Magistrate of Faridpur interfere with the executive work of the jail;

(*ii*) whether the District Magistrate had any authority to inflict punishments for breach of jail discipline under the Jail Code;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that no proceedings were drawn up before the punishments were inflicted and no evidence was recorded as required by the rules; and

(*iv*) whether the precautions provided in section 716 of the Jail Code were taken before the sentences of flogging were executed?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) (*iii*) and (*iv*) are in the negative, what action, if any, are the Government proposing to take against the officer responsible for non-compliance with the rules?

(*c*) Was the order of punishment recorded in the punishment register No. 19?

(*d*) If so, by whom and on what date was it so recorded?

(*e*) Is it a fact that there were no history tickets of those prisoners at the time?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) (*i*) In his capacity as District Magistrate exercising general control over the district jail.

(*ii*) Yes, under rule 52 of the Jail Code.

(*iii*) Yes, proceedings were not drawn up nor was evidence recorded.

(*iv*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government are of opinion that while the necessity for restoring order and enforcing discipline was great, it was not so urgent as to justify the Magistrate in departing from the procedure laid down in the Code. To this extent the action of the Magistrate was irregular. On the other hand it is clear that the Magistrate had good grounds for apprehending a further serious deterioration in the situation unless drastic action was promptly taken. Government also appreciate the objections which exist to the infliction of flogging except under circumstances of the utmost gravity and, with the object of ensuring that it shall not be resorted to except in cases of the gravest necessity, have issued an order to the effect that sentences of whipping on prisoners of the class in question or prisoners convicted of what are known as "political offences" should be imposed only in the last resort in extreme cases, and then only with the sanction of the local Government. Government do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) By the officiating Superintendent of the Jail on the 24th December, 1921.

(*e*) Yes.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Muhammadan Assistant Jailors.

250. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the jails of Bengal and in which the Muhammadan prisoners exceed 50 per cent.; and

(*ii*) separately, the names of Hindu and Muhammadan Assistant Jailors in Bengal?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of transferring one Muhammadan Assistant Jailor to each of the District and Central Jails where the numerical strength of Muhammadan prisoners is more than 50 per cent.?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) A statement has been placed on the Library table.

(*b*) Under rule 32 of the Jail Code, the duty of transferring Assistant Jailors rests with the Inspector-General of Prisons. Government have no reason to think that the Inspector-General of Prisons would not make such transfers as are suggested in the question if they are called for in the best interests of Jail administration.

Revision of emoluments of Alipur Jail Press employees.

251. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether the recommendations embodied in the Government of India (Industries Department) Resolution of the 15th July, 1920 (No. A31), are being given effect to in the New Central Jail Press at Alipur?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The Government of India's resolution does not apply to the presses under the Government of Bengal. The revision of pay and establishment in the Press and Forms Department is under consideration.

Clearing a street of prostitutes.

252. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department aware that there is no provision under Bengal Act III of 1907 by which a street, which has once been cleared of prostitutes, can be prevented from again being inhabited by prostitutes?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): The want of a provision of this nature in the Act has already come to notice and the point has been noted for consideration when the Calcutta Police Act is amended.

Faridpur-Bhanga-Madaripur Railway project.

253. Babu BHISMADEV DAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether a fresh survey of the Faridpur-Bhanga-Madaripur Railway project has been made recently?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the nature of the survey and the prospect, if any, for the construction of the line?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the headquarters town of Faridpur is becoming every year more and more inaccessible from the southern parts owing to the abnormal growth of water-hyacinth?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability, pending the construction of the railway line, of making a special grant to the district board of Faridpur for overhauling the existing bridges on the Bhanga road so as to make them fit for motor-traffic?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) The local Government have no information beyond that communicated to the member in reply to his question No. 130 on the 4th July, 1921.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The member is referred to the answer given by the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea to question No. 53 asked by Babu Tankanath Chaudhuri at the meeting of the Council on the 29th August, 1921.

Acquisition of land for the proposed Mymensingh Medical School.

254. Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the date and the amount of the contribution by the Mymensingh District Board for the acquisition of a free site for the proposed Mymensingh Medical School?

(*b*) Have the Government accepted the contribution and proceeded with the acquisition of the site?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) About the month of August, 1921, the District Board of Mymensingh paid a contribution of Rs. 27,000 for the acquisition of land for the proposed Medical School at Mymensingh.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative. The money has been credited to Government and, under the Account rules, cannot be applied directly for the purpose of acquiring land. Government are, however, taking steps for acquisition of land, and propose to provide an equal amount *viz.*, Rs. 27,000 in the supplementary budget for the purpose. The declaration for acquisition of land was published in notification No. 10688-L.A., dated the 12th December, 1921.

Jail Depôt in Free School Street, Calcutta.

255. Khan Bahadur Maulvi MUHAMMAD ERSHAD ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether the depôt of jail-made goods in Free School Street, Calcutta, is a Government concern?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: Yes.

Excavation of Tolly's "Nala."

256. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing the income of the Government from the Gurria and Russa toll stations of the Tolly's *Nala* as it was in the year 1912 and in 1921?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of the way the present excavation work of the Tolly's *Nala* is being carried out by which the raised earth is thrown just near the edge of the water and is washed inside the canal at flood tide?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the canal from the Russa toll station to Diamond Harbour has been silted up and that malaria is raging in that part?

(*d*) Are the Government proposing to excavate the portion of the canal referred to in (*c*)?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) A comparative statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) Some earth was thrown for the first 2 days on starting work near the edge of the water, by the coolies, without orders. This was immediately stopped, and the earth is being thrown on the bank in as regular a form as practicable. Earth thrown out of place at the beginning is being removed.

(*c*) The khal has silted up. There is no information in the Irrigation Department as to whether malaria is raging in that part or not.

(*d*) The excavation of the Kaorapukur khal from Russa and to Bageswar is included in the estimate for canalisation of Kaorapukur. The work of construction of lock and sluice has been started. After completion of these works, the silt clearance of the khal will be started

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 256, showing the amount of Toll Collections at Russa and Gurria during the years 1912 and 1921.

Toll Collections for 1912—

Russa, Rs. 8,645-4-9; Gurria, Rs. 19,324-10-3

Toll Collections for 1921—

Russa, Rs. 10,678-9-0; Gurria, Rs. 146-3-6.

Revision of overseas allowances.

257. Babu BROJENDRA KISHOR RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state how the finance of this Government will be affected by the recent revision of the overseas allowances of the different Imperial services?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: The revision involves an estimated increase in recurring expenditure of Rs. 26,500 per annum.

Anti-malarial works.

258. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what anti-malarial works have been executed with the sum of Rs. 80,000 which has been transferred from the Department of Public Health.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Out of Rs. 80,000 transferred to the Irrigation Department, Rs. 65,000 was meant for expenditure on the Arapanch Scheme, and the balance, *viz.*, Rs 15,000 for Engineering surveys. The Irrigation Department expect to spend Rs. 53,000 and Rs. 11,400, respectively, on these schemes within the financial year.

Pay and functions of certain officers of the Industries Department.

259. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and

Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the functions and pay of the following officers, namely:—

(*i*) Deputy Director of Industries;

(*ii*) Inspector of technical and industrial institutions;

(*iii*) Industrial Intelligence Officer;

(*iv*) Industrial Chemist; and

(*v*) Industrial Engineer?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): A statement furnishing the information is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 259, showing the duties and pay of certain officers of the Industries Department.

Name of officer.	Duties	Pay.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	
(i) Deputy Director of Industries.	The duties of this officer are stated in paragraph 8 of the Administration Report of the Industries Department, Bengal, for the year 1920. Besides, a considerable portion of the duties of the Industrial Intelligence Officer as indicated in the same paragraph with the exception of matters relating to labour has devolved on the Deputy Director.	1,800	
(ii) Inspector of technical and industrial institutions.	The duties of this officer are mainly to give proper direction to technical and industrial education and to foster it and generally to advise the Director of Industries in this branch of the work of the department	1,700 (including O. A. Rs. 250 and L. A. Rs. 200).	

Name of officer.	Duties.	Pay.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	
(iii) Industrial Intelligence Officer.	.....	.....	The post of the Industrial Intelligence Officer was a temporary one and its term expired on the 28th February, 1922. Experience of the last 18 months has shown that during this period the officer was mainly occupied with strikes and other matters relating to labour without having sufficient time to devote to the collection of intelligence relating to the development of industries. Government have therefore decided to appoint temporarily for 2 years a new officer to be styled "Labour Intelligence Officer" who will exclusively deal with labour matters and will work directly under the Commerce Department.
(iv) Industrial Chemist ...	The duties of this officer are not defined in the report of the Indian Industrial Commission, but the functions of the Provincial Research Institutes to which Industrial Chemists will be ultimately attached are laid down in paragraph 14 of the report of the Chemical Services Committee, 1920.	1,000	This officer has only been appointed recently and is at present engaged in ascertaining the present position, prospects and development of chemical industries in Bengal.
(v) Industrial Engineer ...	His duties are defined in paragraph 315 read with paragraph 208 of the Report of the Indian Industrial Commission.	1,000	The officer has not yet been appointed.

Works of the Industries Department.

260. Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the works carried out by the Industries Department in the various branches for the last twelve years.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The Department of Industries was created as a temporary measure in October, 1917, as a direct result of the war. The Department was made permanent with effect from January, 1920. For an account of the work done by the Department up to December, 1920, the member is referred to the administration reports of the Department, namely, the reports for the period between October, 1917, and December, 1919, and the report for 1920, copies of which are laid on the Library table. The report for 1921 is not ready yet.

Jamuna bund.

261. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware that many people, from about thirty-five villages in thana Kaliganj, in the Satkhira subdivision, have left their houses and lands on account of the removal of the bund of the river Jamuna?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that large areas of land have been lying uncultivated since the removal of the bund?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the circumstances under which the removal was sanctioned?

(*d*) If the removal has been sanctioned for any sanitary or other like improvement, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the nature of such improvement supplying any statistics that may be available?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making an inquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) and (*b*) The area adjacent to the river has been spoilt for cultivation by influx of salt water.

(*c*) and (*d*) This Department has no information on this point.

(*e*) No. The bund has recently been restored by the villagers.

Primary Schools.

262. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of primary schools in Bengal;

(*ii*) the number of students therein; and

(*iii*) the number of primary schools aided by Government or local bodies?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): (*i*) The number of primary schools in Bengal—47,772.

(*ii*) The number of students therein—1,456,865.

(*iii*) The number of primary schools aided by Government or local bodies—38,573.

Alaipur Khal.

263. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware that the silted up condition of the Bhairab River, commonly known as the Alaipur Khal, in the district of Khulna, is causing anxiety to the local public as affecting the drainage and health of a large area and a considerable amount of river-borne traffic?

(*b*) Have the Government instituted an inquiry into the condition, and as to the possibility of the Khal being canalised? If so, with what result?

(*c*) Have the Government received any comprehensive scheme for sanitation and irrigation from the district board of Khulna?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what major schemes have been suggested by that district board and approved by the Government?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) Government is aware of the silted up condition of the Bhairab River commonly known as Alaipur Khal.

(*b*) An inquiry has been instituted to find out means to keep open this portion of the river. Gauge readings are still being recorded to arrive at some definite conclusion. The inquiry is not completed yet.

(*c*) No comprehensive scheme for sanitation and irrigation has been received from the District Board of Khulna.

(*d*) No such scheme has been received.

Effect of non-co-operation on recognised Secondary Schools.

264. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that the non-co-operation movement has affected many of the recognised secondary schools of Bengal, aided and unaided?

(*b*) If so, what steps, if any, are the Government contemplating taking to minimise the difficulties of these schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A sum of Rs. 60,000 has been spent (this financial year) in helping good schools threatened by the non-co-operation movement. It is proposed to spend a large sum for a similar purpose, and if it is found to be required in 1922-23.

Teachers of recognised secondary schools.

265. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that there is a feeling amongst the teachers of the recognised secondary schools that their pay is inadequate?

(*b*) Is there any scheme before the Government for the improvement of the pay of such teachers?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the policy of Government in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) A scheme was drawn up in 1908, the main feature of which was the fixing of a minimum scale of establishment for all classes of secondary school, *viz.*, Rs. 540 per month for High Schools under private management, Rs. 145 for Middle English Schools and Rs. 70 per month for Middle Vernacular Schools. The scheme provided for increased grants-in-aid on scales proportionate to the expenditure to enable schools to come up to these standards. Partial effect was given to the scheme with the grants sanctioned by the Government of India for secondary education, and as funds for increased grants are available they are given in accordance with these scales, but funds have not been sufficient to render possible any considerable improvement. The Minister proposes to examine this question further next official year.

Retrospective effect given to the revision of certain higher services.

266. Munshi AYUB ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the dates from which effect has been given to the revision of the salaries of the following services, namely:—

(*i*) the Indian Civil Service;

(*ii*) the Indian Engineering Service;

(*iii*) the Indian Educational Service;

(*iv*) the Bengal Civil Service;

(*v*) the Bengal Engineering Service;

(*vi*) the Bengal Educational Service;

(*vii*) the Subordinate Civil Service;

(*viii*) the Subordinate Engineering Service; and

(*ix*) the Subordinate Educational Service?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state which of these services have been revised with retrospective effect?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) The dates are as follows:—

(*i*) 1st December, 1919.
(*ii*) 1st January, 1920.
(*iii*), (*iv*) and (*v*) 1st December, 1919.
(*vi*) 1st February, 1920.
(*vii*) 1st April, 1921.
(*viii*) 1st February, 1920.
(*ix*) 1st September, 1921.

(*b*) In all these cases the date of the orders of revision was subsequent to the date from which effect was to be given to them; retrospective effect was therefore given in all cases.

Reorganisation of the Bengal Secretariat Press.

267. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry into the administration of the Bengal Secretariat Press and of reorganising it in accordance with the resolution of the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: The member is referred to Bengal Government order No. 2678-T./F., dated the 27th October, 1920, which was issued after consideration of the Government of India's resolution No. A31, dated the 15th July, 1920. A copy of the order is laid on the Library table. Orders sanctioning certain further revisions of pay will issue shortly. Apart from this no general inquiry into the administration of the Bengal Secretariat Press is contemplated at present, but the matter will be further considered on receipt of the report of the Committee which recently sat to examine the grievances of piece-workers in the Government of India presses

Sericulture Department.

268. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a brief report of the working of the Sericulture Department indicating definitely—

(*i*) the usefulness of the Department; and

(*ii*) the appreciation and utilization of the services of the department by the people of the country employed in the silk industry?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that there is an Experimental Laboratory and office of the Department at 12, Alipur Road, under Miss Cleghorn assisted by her own sister another Miss Cleghorn, one Miss Kemp and other assistants with two experimental farms at Barisha Dakshinpara and Tollyganj Bansdhani?

(*c*) What are the qualifications and salaries of the officers mentioned in (*b*)?

(*d*) What is the total expenditure for this institution per year?

(*e*) Is it a fact that Miss Cleghorn has been employing herself in experimenting on hybrid and cross-bred worms?

(*f*) Under whose directions and with whose approval is she carrying on the experiments and with what results?

(*g*) Is it a fact that the assistants of the Laboratory and office there have not received their pay since the month of December last?

(*h*) Are the Government considering the desirability of effecting any economy in this Department?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) (*i*) The work of the Sericultural Department especially in the neighbourhood of Government nurseries, where the staff has been able to exert its influence on the rearers, has undoubtedly been beneficial. Good seed is, above all, most important in this industry. The supply of disease-free seed has done immense good and saved the rearers from great losses and a striking testimony has recently been received from the Government of India on the value of the work done in this direction.

(*ii*) The seed-cocoons supplied by the Department during 1920-21 were estimated to represent about 22 per cent. of the total seed requirements of the Province. This alone indicates that the Government nurseries have gained the confidence of the public. As a matter of fact the demand for Government seed is far greater than the supply and it commands a higher price than other seed. The latest account of the work of the several sections of the Sericultural Department will be found in Appendix XXII to the Annual Report of the Agricultural Department for 1920-21, a copy of which is laid on the Library table.

(*b*) Yes. There are, however, no experimental farms, but there are 4 mulberry plantations, *viz.*, one at Ballygunge, one at Behala (Barisha), one at Tollyganj and one at Alipur.

(*c*) Miss M. L. Cleghorn, Sericultural Research Expert, is a Fellow of the Linnean, Entomological and Zoological Societies of London and is a member of the British Geological Society and of the Asiatic Society

of Bengal. She has also taken a course in Agricultural Science. She has studied silk-worms for about 19 years. She is in the grade of Rs. 350—20—750 per mensem.

Miss O. Cleghorn, First Assistant, has had the benefit of a training under her father who was a keen scientist and spent over 30 years in Sericultural Research work. Her salary is fixed at Rs. 250 per mensem subject to the condition that funds are available. Miss Kemp, Rearing Assistant, draws Rs. 130 per mensem. She has received no scientific training, but is an experienced hand.

The other Assistants are—

(1) Babu B. N. Pal, Laboratory Assistant, on Rs. 105 per mensem.
(2) Babu P. K. Pal, First Rearing Observer, on Rs. 70 per mensem.
(3) Babu D. C. Ray, Second Rearing Observer, on Rs. 55 per mensem.
(4) Mr. S. M. Nathan, Third Rearing Observer, on Rs. 45 per mensem.
(5) Babu J. N. Sen, Mulberry Observer, on Rs. 45 per mensem.

(*d*) The total expenditure is about Rs. 17,000 per annum.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Miss Cleghorn's work on hybridization is being continued on the lines approved by the old Bengal Silk Committee. The results obtained will be found in detail in her report for 1920-21 published as Appendix XXIV to the Annual Report of the Agricultural Department, Bengal, for 1920-21.

(*g*) There was some delay in payment owing to audit objections, which have since been rectified.

(*h*) The strictest economy is practised, but it is not proposed to reduce expenditure by curtailing the activities of the department.

Schedule D Embankments.

289. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to lay on the table the list of Schedule D Embankments within the district of the 24-Parganas published with Bengal Act VI of 1873?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the heading of expenditure and the provision of law under which such embankments are maintained by the Government?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether all such embankments are taken care of? If not, why not?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the list of embankments excluded together with the approximate dates since the year 1900 stating the reason for exclusion in each case?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the approximate costs for the construction and maintenance of the embankments included in Schedule D for every year from 1899-1900 to 1920-1921?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the heading of expenditure and the provision of law under which expenses are incurred in respect of the embankments referred to in (*e*)?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) The member is referred to the Schedule printed on pages 32-47 of Irrigation Manual, Volume II, which is for sale.

(*b*) Under the new classification introduced by the Government of India the expenditure is shown under "15.—Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue." Regarding the law, the member is referred to the Bengal Embankment Act, 1882 (Bengal Act II of 1882).

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) and (*e*) It will take time to collect the information.

(*f*) As in (*b*) above.

"Society in Evolution."

270. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: With reference to the answer to clause (*d*) of unstarred question No. 141 put by me at the meeting of the 20th February, 1922, will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state why and under whose orders the whole edition of the book *Society in Evolution*, published by the Calcutta University, has been destroyed?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The University Press authorities informed the Inspector-General of Registration that the whole edition had been destroyed by order of the Vice-Chancellor. No explanation was given, but the book is entirely a reproduction of certain chapters of a book on the same subject by an American author.

Damodar Canal Project.

271. Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether any action has been taken to consult public opinion and to take the opinions of the District Officers on the question of raising water-rates for the Damodar Canal project in accordance with the assurance given to Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur on the 2nd December, 1921?

(*b*) If any opinion has been received, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay the same on the table?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the reply to unstarred question No. 232 put by Raja Manilall Singh Roy on the 15th March, 1922. The examination has not yet reached that stage when public opinion could be invited or local authorities consulted. The matter will be expedited as soon as practicable.

Mr. Biss's scheme of primary education.

272. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether Mr. Biss's scheme of primary education will be given effect to?

(*b*) If so, on what scale is it contemplated that effect will be given to it?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER. (*a*) Mr. Biss's scheme of primary education depends on the co-operation of local bodies. During the year 1921-22, the local bodies which agreed to take up Mr. Biss's scheme were allowed to do so and Government sanctioned in many cases half of the capital and recurring expenditures. Government are prepared to allow local bodies to take up schemes on Mr. Biss's lines with or without modifications. Government propose to provide further funds at an early date to enable local bodies to take up Mr. Biss's scheme of primary education with or without modifications.

(*b*) The scale will depend on the ability of local bodies to provide funds.

Summary Divisions.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): I hope the House will appreciate the practice, which has been adopted on various occasions, of taking a summary division in the Chamber, when the Chair considers that a division is claimed in spite of the clearly expressed sense of the House. This practice is in the interests of disposal of business and to prevent the time of the Council being wasted unnecessarily. I had hoped that after what had been said from the Chair the unnecessary giving of trouble to members by frivolous claims to a division would have ceased. This, unfortunately, has not been the case, and I shall observe this practice, in the interests of the House as a whole, more frequently than has been done in the past. If, on seeing the result of a summary division, I find that the balance of votes for and against in any way justifies the longer procedure, I shall give orders for a division through the lobbies to be taken on the motion.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: May I inquire whether it will not be going beyond the standing orders?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I have read the standing orders very carefully, and I do not think it will be going against the spirit of the standing orders.

The Budget of the Government of Bengal, 1922-23.

Demands for Grants.

26.—Police.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I move "that a sum of Rs. 1,74,11,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '26.—Police.'"

If the Council will look at the comparative figures which are given on page 34 of the Grey Book they will see that the total budget estimate for Police for 1922-23 is Rs. 1,89,00,000, as compared with the revised estimate of Rs. 1,89,00,000 and the budget estimate of Rs. 1,90,00,000 for the current year, and that close approximation between these three figures indicates what, in fact, the Budget as now presented really is. That is to say, it is a budget merely to carry on the administration of the police force, as it now exists and on present lines, and it is a budget which ignores the many demands for improvement which I have often mentioned in this Council, and which, in the case of the police, as in the case of other departments, are long pending for fulfilment. However, the extent for which they can be undertaken next year, will be a question for consideration when the supplementary grants are presented to this Council, and at the moment we are merely asking for the provision which will enable us to carry on the department on the lines on which it is now worked. There have, of course, been fluctuations in the figures as between last year and this, and in order to avoid the necessity for worrying the Council with a mass of detail, I circulated this printed statement, which, to the best of our ability, gives particulars under each main head, and I scarcely think it is necessary that I should read through what has already been in the hands of members in print for some time past, and which they have doubtless studied. With the further wish of giving such information as is in our power to members of the Council on the subject of police, we circulated during the year this somewhat bulky Blue Book giving a mass of detail both as regards the police in this province and in other provinces in India. I do not, therefore, propose, in my opening remarks to deal further with matters of detail, especially since in the course of the last year I have already delivered many speeches giving

facts about the different branches of the force. The Budget being, as I have said, one for the carrying on of the police as it now exists, the main issue before the Council is whether the maintenance of the police on the present standard is necessary, and indeed inevitable, and on that main issue my views are well known to the Council; namely, to put them at their briefest, that even granting that the cost of the police in Bengal now amounts to a large sum, it is a cost which we cannot avoid compatibly with our responsibilities for the administration of the Presidency, and compatibly with the efficient safeguarding of the interests of the people of the province, and I have further often pointed out that, judged by such tests as we are able to apply, we are not guilty of the general charge of wanton extravagance, and indeed are neglecting to incur expenditure in various directions, which those departmentally responsible for the police consider necessary. Lastly, the whole trend of the development of the Presidency renders it inevitable that the expenditure on this vital branch of the administration should continue to go up.

Considering the fact that towards the end of the last year we, at the request of this Council, willingly agreed to the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee to consider this matter of police expenditure and the possibilities of curtailing it, I cannot but think that it would have been better if the Council had awaited the report of that committee before seeking to discuss matters which doubtless will come before that body, and regarding which they will inquire into the facts. It would have been better if, instead of trying to anticipate, the Council had awaited that report, since many of these points are far more easily discussed in committee than by set speech and answer. They involve dry and wearisome details which it is difficult to put succinctly and to which it is still more boresome for members to listen, and all that kind of thing can be dealt with far more simply and effectively in discussion over a table. To anticipate the verdict of that committee is rather as if a judge were to say in the course of a trial, "I admit I have not finished the evidence, but the accused can take six months' imprisonment for the present to carry on with, and I will consider when I have finished whether I will give him more." In the case of a judge that would be stigmatised as rather unjust; we cannot apply the same adjective to the Legislative Council which, of course, can lay down its own standards of propriety, but I put it that, even in the case of the Legislative Council, this action is not altogether wise. However, those amendments have been filed, and we will do our best to give the details which the movers of them seek.

In conclusion, I would only touch upon one more point, especially since this is likely to be one of the last occasions on which in this Council I shall touch upon this much debated subject. It is a truism to say that the police as a body are engaged upon difficult and in many ways distasteful duties. It is equally a truism to say that they

are duties upon which the efficient administration of the Presidency and the protection of the weak against wrong-doers very largely depend, and they are duties for the discharge of which no administration run on organised lines has found it possible to dispense with the employment of a police force. It is equally a truism to say that for the effective discharge of those duties, it is eminently desirable that the State should be served by a contented and willing body of workers. But although those matters are all in the nature of truisms, I am bound to point out to the Council that at the present moment that ideal is not being realised in this Presidency. We have had evidence this year indicating a distinct tendency on the part of some of the higher officers of the force to seek to leave it, and we shall very shortly, in the course of the next few months, lose the services of various young, capable and valuable officers with whom we are very reluctantly dispensing. That is as regards officers of the Imperial Police. Below them, from the ranks of the deputy superintendents to constables, it cannot be said that anything like contentment now prevails. The Council may have noticed that about last Christmas we had in Calcutta a meeting of the All-India Police Conference, which, among many points, put forwards requests for pay in all grades far in excess of what we are now giving and far in excess of what we think we can afford to pay. Apart from these two matters, I should be failing in my duty if I did not point out and emphasise that the police force at the present moment is greatly distressed and perturbed by the attitude taken up as regards them by the Legislative Council, which now plays such an important part in the administration, and granted that discontent and perturbation, it is impossible that the province will get from its police the willing and contented service on which it must rely if the work of the department is to be properly conducted. I would therefore again put it to the Council that we would do well to abstain as far as possible from captious criticism of the police, and to look more to the difficulties that they encounter, and to the honourable manner in which, taken as a whole, they discharge the duties which are imposed upon them.

In the absence of the member, the following amendment, standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for the Deputy and Assistant Commissioners of Police be reduced by one-fourth."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move "that the demand for Rs. 71,700 for salaries to the Deputy and Assistant Commissioners under head '26A.—Presidency Police,' be reduced by Rs. 1,800."

My proposal actually refers to an insignificant sum, but I think it is more for discussing the principle than for any actual appreciable reduction that I have raised this question. In that light, I hope the House

will consider the whole situation. I am as anxious as anybody in this Council for the maintenance of law and order and for the security of the life and property of people, but at the same time I cannot but notice that the expenditure as a whole is gradually increasing. Last year, there was an attempt to decrease expenditure by a large sum; but subsequently we had to grant it in consideration of the fact that so heavy a curtailment in a particular year was not feasible. As far as my experience goes, I think the department is rather over-manned; in that view I suggest that an attempt should be made to minimise the expenditure. There are 16 assistant and deputy commissioners in Calcutta, and the average expenditure (actuals) of 1920-21 is Rs. 1,32,137. The budget estimate for 1921-22 was Rs. 1,35,000 including voted and non-voted heads. We cannot say anything about the non-voted amount; I raise the question in regard to the voted amount. In the revised estimate there was a noticeable decrease, but I notice that on the non-voted side there is a heavy increase. On the whole I see that there is more expenditure provided than the actuals of 1920-21.

I am aware that a Police Committee has been appointed to consider the question, but the result of their deliberations is not yet known. At any rate we should try to see that the expenditure is reduced as far as possible. No doubt there is political unrest, but actually the plan is for non-violent non-co-operation; so on that account I do not think there is any heavy expenditure necessary. Whatever excess expenditure is necessary, it may be on account of the feeding and guarding of the prisoners, but there cannot be any appreciable increase of work for the heads of the departments. In that view, I think an attempt may be made not to make any new recruitment next year, so that in that way expenses may be reduced. That is all I have to say.

CHIEF SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT (Mr. H. L. Stephenson): The actuals of last year under this head were Rs. 1,31,000; the budget estimate for this year is Rs. 1,32,600. The reason for the increase is due entirely to the time-scale, which was introduced among the assistant commissioners 4 or 5 years ago, and was slightly raised last year. The actual effect of passing this motion for reduction would be to reduce the pay either of one Indian deputy commissioner or of the 13 assistant commissioners. The only ground on which the motion has been moved is the general one that the expenditure on police is rather high, and therefore we should take every opportunity, reasonable or unreasonable, of reducing it, but I have listened in vain to find out from the mover where this redundant establishment is to be found.

In an answer given in this Council on the 17th January last year, the duties and the disposition of the 7 deputy commissioners, 11 permanent assistant commissioners and 2 temporary assistant commissioners who make up the force were given, and if the member had carefully studied that, and then brought forward some reasonable proposal for reduction,

which might induce the Council to think that some of these officers could be got rid of, I would have endeavoured to meet his point; but in the absence of any such, I do not think it is necessary for me to take up the time of the Council. I therefore ask the Council to reject this motion.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: May I say something, Sir?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You are rather late. Mr. Stephenson has already given his reply.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Mr. Stephenson is replying, on behalf of Government, to some of the amendments and I am replying, on behalf of Government, to others. We shall not both speak, I trust, and whoever may be speaking will be doing so on behalf of Government.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following amendment standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 19,800 for travelling allowances under head '26A.—Presidency Police—Superintendent,' be reduced by Rs. 3,400."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move "that the demand for Rs. 2,66,640 for Sergeants under head '26A.—Presidency Police,' be reduced by Rs. 60,000."

There are at present 141 sergeants and we find that the expenditure is gradually increasing owing to the recent increments and other allowances. In the present year though the budget estimate was put at Rs. 2,57,000, in the revised estimate it was reduced to Rs. 2,20,000. We cannot understand the reason why there should be so much increase if in the present year it can be managed with Rs. 2,20,000. I have not been able to go through the statement which was supplied to us day before yesterday. When I sent a notice of the amendment, I thought that the demand should be reduced and in that view I brought forward this proposal that the expenditure should be cut down.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I move "that the sum of Rs. 2,66,640 which it is proposed to grant under head '26A.—Police—Calcutta Police (Sergeants) be reduced to Rs. 2,20,000."

It will appear from the Budget that my suggestion is a very moderate one. My esteemed friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, has suggested the reduction by Rs. 60,000, while I submit a suggestion for the reduction of the grant by Rs. 46,640, on the special ground, as will appear from the revised estimate of the current year, that the grant was Rs. 2,20,000 and it has been proposed to be increased to Rs. 2,66,640, that is, an increment of over Rs. 46,000. My humble suggestion is that this particular grant should not be increased.

I will first of all state the general grounds on which I make this suggestion and afterwards I will state the specific grounds for suggesting this reduction. As regards the general grounds, I may be permitted to say that in the year 1905-06, though the revenue of the Government of Bengal was Rs. 6 crores and a half the amount of police expenditure was Rs. 59 lakhs and in the year 1920-21, while the revenue only went up to Rs. 9 crores and a half, the amount of police expenditure went up to Rs. 1 crore and 90 lakhs. I will further draw your attention to the fact that since the year 1905-06, the expenditure on police has been increasing by leaps and bounds. In that very year, as I have pointed out, it was only Rs. 59 lakhs; then in 1912-13 it went up to Rs. 85 lakhs; in 1916-17 it was Rs. 116 lakhs; in 1918-19 it was Rs 132 lakhs; in 1919-20 it was Rs. 143 lakhs; in 1921-22 it was Rs. 190 lakhs, including the Rs. 5 lakhs to be paid to the District Charitable Society. It appears from the Budget that the total expenditure which is going to be incurred for the maintenance of the Police is Rs. 189 lakhs. So it appears that since 1905-06 though the proportion of police expenditure was then only 5 per cent., it has now gone up to 20 per cent. These are the general remarks which I beg to submit. Is it desirable, Sir, to increase the police expenditure, so that it may now be 20 per cent. of the total expenditure? A few years ago, before the so-called Reforms were thought of the proportion was only 5 per cent.

Then, as regards the specific grounds, I beg to draw your attention to the following facts. I have gone through the details given in the statement which has been supplied to us by the Police Department, but the only detail which I find in this connection is that, as the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler states, in the current year the total grant of Rs. 71,35,000 for the Police force has been increased to Rs. 74,50,000 and it is stated that the increase is partly due to the revision of pay of almost all the ranks of the subordinate police on a time-scale basis So far as this item is concerned I do not find any explanation whatever in the printed statement which has been circulated to us.

I also requested Mr. Spry to favour me with certain details. In my letter of the 13th March, I said that if I could get all the details relating to the particular cases on which I had sent notices of motions and if I could be satisfied with them, I would be very glad to withdraw my amendments Sir, it was only on the 20th instant that I was favoured with a reply, but I am sorry to say that the reply does not contain any detail whatever with respect to the points—

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. E. Spry): May I, Sir, rise to a point of order? As far as I am aware Babu Amulya Dhone Addy has not written to me for any information either on the Police budget or on this particular item. If he had written to me for such information, I should have referred him to the Police Department. I received a letter from Mr. Addy asking me to

give him the special reasons for the deficit of the Government of Bengal, and I referred him to the speeches of the Hon'ble the Finance Member delivered on the occasions of the introduction of the Taxation Bills and of the budget estimates for 1922-23. He also asked me to give him particulars of the increased cost of certain establishments, and I supplied him with a printed copy of the reply given by the Hon'ble Member to a similar question put by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri at the meeting of Council held on the 21st November, 1921. I also stated at the end of my letter that if this did not contain sufficient details, I should be very glad to give him further information at my disposal. I must protest against the remark of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, as I have received no request from him for any information either on police expenditure in general or on this particular item.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I am sorry: I have received no information as far as I remember. I think I asked for full details as to the items of expenditure in connection with matters relating to which I had given notices of amendments.

Mr. H. E. SPRY: That is not correct.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Then I must withdraw it. But so far as I remember I did it.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Then why do you withdraw it?

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: As regards the specific grounds why this reduction should be made, I beg to submit that the actual expenditure for the European sergeants of Calcutta in the year 1919-20 was Rs. 1,23,330 ; then in the year 1920-21 it was increased to Rs. 1,89,103 ; then in 1921-22, as it appears from the revised estimate of the Budget it rose to Rs. 2,22,000 and it has now been proposed to be increased to Rs. 2,66,640; so it appears that even in connection with the pay of these sergeants the actual expenditure has been increasing from year to year. Then, as we know, the pay of these sergeants ranges from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per month and all of them are Europeans or Eurasians. Can we expect good services from these officers, with the exception of a few of them whom I have come across in this Town Hall and I think they are very polite? The public opinion is that these European sergeants do not know how to behave with gentlemen and I think it my duty to draw your special attention to it. During the last political agitation, that is the *hartal* movement, it is their presence which created a great sensation. I have seen with my own eyes some police sergeants arresting students simply on the ground that the latter requested others to close their shops on the 24th December and not to purchase foreign goods.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Is the member in order?

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: That was the special reason why some students were arrested and it is now proposed to increase the pay of the sergeants.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I hope you will shorten your speech.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Am I not entitled to speak for a quarter of an hour?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: There are others who want to speak.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: We can reduce the estimate by engaging the services of Indian officers. We know that Indian Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police are mostly educated and they know how to behave themselves with gentlemen. Therefore I think that if we engage the services of Indians in these posts we can reduce the expenditure heavily. After all, what are the duties of these police sergeants? They do not appear to be onerous and I am sure these duties can be satisfactorily discharged by Indian officers and even if the sergeants are to perform the functions of military officers, then we could engage Indian sepoys on lower salaries. Therefore, my suggestion is a very moderate one. What I beg to submit is that, under the present state of our finances, it is not possible to increase the pay of the post or to make any increments whatever. It is not proposed that the number of these officers should be reduced.

With these remarks, I beg to move the amendment standing in my name.

The following amendment, which stood in the name of Babu Fanindralal De, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for the 'Sergeants, Detailed account 26A.—Presidency Police,' be reduced by Rs. 46,000."

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I have great pleasure in supporting the amendment of my friend, Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, though I certainly differ from the reasons he has advanced. I do not agree with him at all in thinking that the sergeants are useless except those who have given him *salaams* in the Town Hall. It goes without question that sergeants are useful for particular works, but the reason why I object to this demand is that in the course of a few years, the expenditure has gone up by more than 50 per cent. In 1921, the actuals were Rs. 1,89,000. The budget estimate last year was Rs. 2,57,000, but the actuals were Rs. 2,20,000 and the present estimate is over Rs. 2,66,000. Therefore, in the course of two years, the expenditure has gone up from Rs. 1,89,000 to Rs. 2,66,000. I do not think that this ought to be granted as no reason has been made out for this additional demand and that is the point on which I object to this demand. It is not at all a question whether a Bengali or an Anglo-Indian or a European should be appointed.

Whoever is appointed so far as this particular question is concerned, we cannot afford to pay more and our liabilities are increasing gradually. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler has told us that there are truisms connected with the police expenditure. He says that it is truism that the police people are not contented, but there is a truism of which he has not taken notice and that is that we must not go beyond our means. Therefore, on behalf of the people whom I represent, I strongly protest against unnecessary increase in all these matters. So far as the police are concerned, there is no clear reason for this increase of expenditure and I do object to it and ask the Council to accept the amendment of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I feel that there is considerable justification in moving the amendments proposed by Babu Amulya Dhone Addy and Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. I need not repeat the arguments which have been advanced by the three speakers. The Budget shows a steady rise in the pay of the sergeants from 1920-21 to the ensuing Budget. Further, I cannot understand why the budget estimates for 1920-21 was reduced from Rs. 2,57,000 to Rs. 2,20,000, and this year again it mounts up to Rs. 2,66,000. I think there is one point which ought to be taken into consideration and it is this: we are all asking for the employment of a larger number of Indians—that is for the Indianisation of the services, and I do not know whether there is in this branch of the Police service a considerable number of Indians—I am not aware of that. But in these days of economy, when there is a loud and justifiable cry for economy in every direction, I think economy may be effected if a larger element of Indians are admitted to these posts because we know very well—I am not of course speaking of Bengalis but of other people hailing from other parts of India—how there are many capable Indians, who are well able to fill the posts of sergeants, and I do not know why these men should not be recruited from these places.

I should like to refer to one or two observations which have fallen from the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler. He thinks that we are all captious about the police, that is, we propose unnecessary reduction, *i.e.*, we are always anxious to cut down the police expenditure. I may mention here, by the way, that we all recognise the importance of the Police service in our country as in other countries. We know that the police are essential for the protection of life and property. At the same time everybody will admit that it is not a wise thing to look at the police exclusively from one point of view, *i.e.*, the Government point of view, and that we ought to look at it from the people's point of view as well. The police administration should be conducted in such a way as to enlist the co-operation and sympathy of the people. I do not mean to say that the co-operation and sympathy of the people should be enlisted by surrendering law in any way, but there should not be unnecessary violence or excesses on the part of the police. The country is at the present moment reeking

with discontent on account of the excesses on the part of the police and that is the reason why the people are so much discontented. There is no captious criticism about the police and that is the point which is overlooked by the Government. We all admit that the police officer is necessary for the maintenance of law and order and for the security of life and property; at the same time, we know that if the police keep themselves within the bounds of law and order and also refrain from indulging in excesses, the police will be welcomed by the people at large. But the large volume of public opinion which has arisen in the last few months, as is well known to the Hon'ble Member, is due to the excesses on the part of the police, and I think he will do well to deliver a homily similar to that which he delivered in the Legislative Council the other day, to the police officers directly under him.

Mr. H. BARTON: I am unable to understand why there is always so much opposition to the police budget ("Hear, hear"). I must take very strong exception to the attempts made to throw calumny upon the Europeans and Anglo-Indians who form part of the police force. I do not think this is merited. We are told that we must not go beyond our means. It is not a question of our means but of our needs. Our needs arise entirely from the position that is created by the people; and if any excesses have taken place, they are entirely in keeping with the excesses of those who brought about that position.

A special reference has been made to the question of the Indianisation of the services; and it has been particularised that a large proportion of the police force comprises Anglo-Indians and Europeans. I take it that those who are in authority and who understand the position are best able to know which class is able to serve the Government and the people best. If they thought that they could do with a lesser number of Europeans and Anglo-Indians, they would certainly resort to such a course.

I am unable to understand why Indianisation should be interpreted to mean the exclusion, as far as possible, of Europeans and Anglo-Indians. Following the arguments advanced in the Legislative Assembly, where the question of the Indianisation of the services came up very prominently, it was very clearly set out by the mover of the resolution that by the term "Indianisation," it was never intended to be hostile to the domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, or to anybody who had permanent interests in the country. If the attitude of the members is that "Indianisation" means the exclusion of Europeans and Anglo-Indians from the services, then the question arises—where do the domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians stand? We are as much the people of the country as well as the Indians; we are here by force of circumstances, we were born and bred here and we have got to live and die here, much against our inclination perhaps. Therefore, we have a perfect claim to equal consideration in matters of this

kind. To take up the attitude that because there are Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans in the police force, it clashes with the interests of the Indians is not a fair view of the situation at all. It practically amounts to telling us that there should be no room for Anglo-Indians or domiciled Europeans in the police force or in any other services of the Government. If that be the attitude of our Indian brethren, then I am afraid they will make the position very awkward for us. We desire, so far as is possible, to stretch our hands and join with the Indian but an attitude such as that displayed by some of the speakers can only drive us away, and we shall be compelled to take sides with the Europeans supinely (cries of: "No, no"). That is not our desire; but we shall be compelled to go with the Europeans if our Indian brethren drive us away. We have however a perfect right to serve this country.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: You are an Indian and you are not going to leave us.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: May I give a personal explanation?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You may do so after Mr. Stephenson has replied.

Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I do not propose to discuss the question of the rise of the police expenditure or its proportion to the income of the country. It has been dealt with on several occasions by Sir Henry Wheeler in a far better and abler way than I possibly can. I do not think it necessary, in connection with this particular motion, to follow Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur into his arguments in appreciation or in depreciation of the police. I shall confine myself entirely to the motion for reduction of the vote of Rs. 2,66,640: and this has been urged mainly on three grounds; first that no explanation has been given of the rise; secondly, that there has been a general rise in the last few years under this head; and thirdly, that it may be possible to get Indians on a smaller pay.

Sir, as regards the first point, the rise this year amounts to Rs. 46,000 and the number of sergeants is exactly the same as last year, viz., 154. of whom 13 are charged for under "Port Police" and do not come under this head: thus the number is 141. The reasons for the increase are twofold: first, as in the case of another motion recently discussed, it is due to the introduction of the time-scale. Until the time-scale has been in operation for a considerable number of years so that there is a regular flow from the bottom to the top and it is more or less stabilised at the average pay, there must be a constant increase. The second point is that during the war we were unable to get sergeants. After the war was over, we were unable to get sergeants of

the type we required from the Army, as on demobilisation most of the men went home. Now, owing to the general unemployment not only in India but elsewhere we are getting sergeants, Whereas two years ago we had 23 vacancies out of 154, at the present moment, there are no vacancies and the Commissioner of Police does not expect any vacancies in the course of the next year. The provision has therefore to be higher than last year.

As regards the general rise under this head in the last few years, the explanation is very much the same. As I have said, during the war we could not get men; therefore, the budget was lower than it would have been if our staff were full. But there is also an additional reason and that is the fact that cost of labour of all kinds, including this particular class of labour, has gone up very much in the course of the last few years. The pay of the sergeants in the Calcutta police is conditioned by the pay of the Army. The best men we can get on the whole are the men from the Army with first class characters. The pay of the Army has gone up and these men do not want to leave the Army for an appointment in Calcutta on a lower pay. Therefore, as the pay of that particular kind of labour has gone up, we had to raise our budget estimates. This budget provision of Rs. 2,66,000 is based on the actual pay; taking the average pay, the sum required is Rs. 2,96,000, but we have reduced that to Rs. 2,66,000 to allow for the working of the time-scale pay.

Coming to the last point, whether it would not be possible to save something by employing Indians on some of these duties, in a meeting of the Council on the 4th July, an answer was given by Sir Henry Wheeler which detailed the duties of the sergeants. These are traffic, patrol, Government guard, port police, public vehicles department, armed police and reserve. From the very earliest days of the Calcutta Police force, the force has been a mixed force. The necessity for Europeans in some form has been recognised from the very start of the police force in Calcutta and the reasons for this are, I think, obvious. Calcutta is a big port, there are seamen from every part of the world in Calcutta, it is a congeries of nationalities, it is a meeting place of criminals from every part of the world—I do not mean to say that all who come here are criminals—and the duty of maintaining law and order here is of a very special kind which has always been found, as I have said, from the earliest days of the police force, to require a certain number of Europeans serving in the sergeants' grades of the force. I gather that the Council has no wish to reverse the verdict of history and to do away with the sergeants in the police force. On a similar motion at the budget debate of last year, moved by Babu Annada Charan Datta to reduce the pay of the sergeants, Sir Henry Wheeler gave as his reasons that "they are an essential part of the police administration in a large city of this kind, and in connection

with *goondaism*, one of the requests recently put before me by the Marwari Association was that we should have more European sergeants in Burra Bazar." That request has since been repeated. The Council rejected that motion and I trust that they will also reject the present motion.

Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri's motion was then put and lost.

Babu Amulya Dhone Addy's motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur, Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Rishi, Babu Rashik Chandra.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed

NOES.

Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Barton, Mr. H.
Biss, Mr. E. E.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Colvin, Mr. G. L.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Deare, Lieutenant-Colonel B. H.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
French, Mr. F. C.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Hindley, Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. M.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Hussain, Maulvi Muhammad Madassur.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Law, Raja Reshee Case.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Parrett, Mr. P.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Spry, Mr. H. E
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 36 and the Noes 46, the motion was lost.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Professor S. C. Mukherji, I hope you will try to be as brief as possible. I give you five minutes.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Is that your ruling?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: We have got six hours and nearly 50 more amendments, so on an average each amendment will take about 7 minutes, and therefore I cannot give more than 5 minutes to a mover.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: It has been our experience that many of these amendments are withdrawn.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I have not begun yet, so I think my time will count from the moment I begin.

I move "that the demand for Rs. 1,00,000 as lump provision to meet political situation under head 'Colcutta Police' be refused."

Though I have condemned the non-co-operation creed right from the beginning, though in all my public utterances whether in this Council Chamber or elsewhere I have consistently condemned every offensive phase of non-co-operation activity, though I have been grossly misrepresented in regard to such utterances by a few thoughtless and irresponsible members of my community who have not even taken the trouble of reading my speeches, yet I feel it my conscientious duty to oppose this grant on the sole ground that it is not necessary.

In a recent speech of mine when I criticised a certain Government measure dealing with the political situation of the province, I characterised the non-co-operation creed as a dying creed—and I think I was not far from the truth. The non-co-operation movement is practically *non est*. Even the arrest and conviction of Mr. Gandhi has not produced a ripple in the current. The non-co-operation movement is either dead or in a moribund condition—at most it is in a state of suspended animation. Under these circumstances, is there any justification for adding to the permanent force of the Calcutta Police? A permanent force will mean a permanent charge and there will be very little chance of a reduction in future. If in the future there is any outburst, the Government will be perfectly justified in taking such measures as would be deemed necessary to maintain law and order. Why, during this very year, this Council has granted nearly Rs. 2,54,000 on account of extra police arrangements to meet the political situation. This Council has not been unreasonable in the matter. The same will be the attitude of this Council if the exigencies of the situation demand it. But circumstanced as we are to-day, there is absolutely no justification for this expenditure. I appeal to the sense of fairness and justice of the Hon'ble Member in charge and I hope he will see the reasonableness of this request.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: My motion stands on the same basis as that of my friend Professor Mukherji, and I do not wish to enlarge on this subject, but I wish to say one word and that is this that only last January, the Hon'ble Member was able to get passed with almost the unanimous support of this House nearly Rs. 2½ lakhs for

strengthening the police by temporary additional force. Now we all know, as has been very clearly pointed out by the previous speaker, that aggressive non-co-operation propaganda is practically non-existent, and further there is the fact that there is no disturbance in any part of Calcutta. All these facts taken together lead us to the conclusion that we shall have a normal time in the near future. And if there is any necessity to cope with any emergency, the Council is always in session and can at any time make a grant. I think that is the best way to meet any situation which may arise in the future. I would therefore support the motion which has been moved by Professor Mukherji.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I have a very few words to add to what has already been said about this motion. I support a proposal like this for two reasons. The first is that, at the present moment, the political situation is very much altered, and altered for the better, and so we need not anticipate any difficulty at the present moment. My second point is this that if any necessity arises, a supplementary grant may be taken. These are my two reasons for which I support the motion. There is another point to which I would draw the attention of the House. The temporary force which was only costing Rs. 16,000 last year has been increased to Rs. 58,283 this year. This also should come if any difficulty arises.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: The amendment standing in my name is practically the same. It runs as follows—

"That the demand for Rs. 31,29,000 for the Presidency Police, be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

I do not think that there is any reason for the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department to suppose that anybody would grudge any demand in future if there is any occasion for it. There is no necessity for making this arrangement of an *ante mortem* kind. Only last January, the Hon'ble Member got Rs. 2½ lakhs for the mere asking and he can very well depend on the sense of the members of this House to make a grant if the same is necessary. In these circumstances, after all that has been said by my friends, I need not take up the time of this House by giving further reasons. I need only say that I do not find any reason for this and the Hon'ble Member would do well to withdraw this demand for the present. If his apprehension is this that he may not be here to get this money out of us, I can say that whether he is here or not, we shall be here to see that law and order is maintained. If there is any danger here, the danger will come upon us. It will not reach him at his home or wherever the glorious God may take him. That is a matter entirely for us, and he need not entertain any apprehension on that score.

Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN: I rise to oppose the amendment moved by Professor S. C. Mukherji, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur and Dr. Rai Haridhan Dutt Bahadur. It seems to me,

Sir, that the wording used in the Civil Estimate demanding the grant is misleading. I have no doubt that the wording of the demand is unfortunate and responsible for inviting the motions for reductions. Had the demand been correctly worded, I am sure there would not have been such motions for reductions. It is for this reason that I urge upon the Government members to see in future that the demands are correctly worded in order to remove all misconception about the nature of the demand. From what I have ascertained, it is clear that the demand is not for a political object, it is not for meeting the political situation created by the non-co-operation movement. The expenditure, it seems to me, is for the ordinary purpose of maintaining order under ordinary circumstances. There were 2 head constables and 18 mounted subadars and it has been found by those who are responsible for maintaining order that this mounted police force is quite inadequate for meeting the wants of a city with more than a million population. It is for this reason that they have increased this force to 5 head constables and 48 subadars and for maintaining this mounted police force this amount is required. From what we have gathered, it is quite clear that this will be a recurring expenditure and not a casual expenditure likely to be incurred for meeting an extraordinary situation. I do not think, Sir, any one will assert that 50 mounted force is too much for this city.

During the general discussion of the Budget, I remarked that it is useless to try to cut down the budget unless steps are taken to reduce the number of posts and to reduce the salary of officers. Well, you are bound to pay to those officers who are in the service at their present rate of pay. If you really want economy you must appoint a committee to find out how this can be done; unless and until you do this, it is mere waste of time and energy to talk over expenditure, and reduce or refuse the demand. The United Provinces and many other bodies have appointed a retrenchment committee and it behoves us also to do so. The other day a resolution was moved by my friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri to reduce the salary but those gentlemen who are speaking most loud voted against the same or remained silent. This, I submit, is the only practical way of solving the difficulty. No amount of speeches, no amount of abuse on the heads of those who are concerned with the administration, will do away with the necessity of paying your officers at the rate at which you have agreed to do so.

Under these circumstances, I oppose the amendment.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to support this amendment on the simple ground that a great change has come over the dreams of the people. I do not think there is any further chance of disorder in this city. The reasons are manifold and not the least among them is that the strong hand has at last come, and as long as the strong hand is there, no money need be spent; but when that hand is weakened money shall be required. I therefore say that public money should not be spent in this way.

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): I am sorry that the form in which this entry appears in the Budget has, perhaps not altogether unreasonably, given rise to the misunderstanding which underlies most of the speeches which we have heard. But in excuse I would only remind the Council that the Budget is compiled in October and November, and once an entry gets in in a particular form, even although it can be properly amended later, it is likely to be overlooked and to continue as it came in. This entry, as it stands, is misleading. It really comprises two distinct items, and it should have been classed as—(*1*) temporary strengthening of the police in the north of Calcutta, and (*2*) permanent addition to the mounted police in the city of Calcutta. If it had been put like that it would have been clear to members and would have shown them that the circumstances which they think have a bearing upon it are not really relevant. The first of these two main provisions, namely, the temporary strengthening of the force, is, it is true, closely connected with the recent Royal visit and the measures we then took to strengthen the police in the northern part of the town. The Council will remember that when I asked for a supplementary grant, I explained that we proposed to post an additional Deputy Commissioner in the north of the town and give him the assistance of an extra inspector and some 50 sergeants, and we proposed to retain these men up to the end of March only. For the month of March they will have to be paid in April, and, therefore, one month's pay of these men comes into the next year's budget and is responsible for Rs. 14,692.

But as things have been quieter in Calcutta, we have been gradually pushing these men out and making what economy we can. We have thus made a saving of Rs. 5,000, and that saving of Rs. 5,000 I am perfectly willing to take off the total grant asked for.

The second portion of this grant has reference to the mounted force. When we came to examine our resources in connection with recent events, the Commissioner of Police pressed upon us the undeniable claim that existed for strengthening the mounted force in Calcutta and for giving them a rate of pay which would keep them in service. Previously we had only two head constables and 18 sowars, and at the request of the Commissioner of Police, although his request was considerably cut down, we allowed him 3 more head constables and 30 sowars. These men were recruited in the cold weather and the horses and the necessary saddlery were purchased, and we think it justifiable to keep them as a permanent addition to the force. In a city of this size, 5 head constables and 48 mounted men are not an excessive provision, and all who are acquainted with the handling of crowds in large cities are aware of the value which attaches to mounted men and the facilities which they give for controlling crowds without recourse to more drastic measures. So that portion of the force having been recruited, and the equipment of it having been purchased, we wish to keep it as a permanency, and I submit that on the merits, it is a very moderate request to make. It has been said

this afternoon that these men are not immediately wanted and can be recruited afterwards if necessity arises, just as we did in December, but having got the men, having got the horses and having got the equipment, is it a sound business proposition, when the need is permanent, to scrap it merely because we have had a fortnight or three weeks' cessation of the scenes which disturbed the city little while ago? To scrap it all on that account and in anticipation that we may possibly again come up for a similar new grant, say in July or August, is surely a very short-sighted policy, let alone the fact, which must be obvious to the Council, that a mounted force requires training and disciplining before it is of full value. For that reason I would ask the Council to accept the grant, subject to a reduction of Rs. 5,000 and to a further reduction of Rs. 3,000 which is in respect of the replacement of the lump figure by the actual, which was only Rs. 97,576: that yields another saving of Rs. 3,000, and adding these two together I hope the Council will be content to reduce this provision by a sum of Rs. 8,000 only. We owe an apology to the Council for having to some extent misled them by the form in which the entry found its place in the Budget; but I have explained the circumstances in which it occurred.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I rise to a point of order, Sir? The Hon'ble Member in charge in his speech has made out entirely a new case. Therefore, I submit that we are entitled to give our replies to them. The original motion was about a certain provision to meet the political situation. But the case that has been made out in the Hon'ble Member's speech is quite different— it has nothing to do with the political situation. Therefore, I submit, that we are entitled to reply.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Although I have admitted the possibility of the Council having been misled, and expressed regret for it, I may remind the Council that I gave all these details when I first asked the Council for a supplementary grant. I have merely repeated what I said two months ago.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: That has nothing to do with this. That money has been given to him. But this is quite a different thing and I stand upon my right to give a reply to it. I submit I am entitled to the right of reply.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I do not think you are entitled to it. I will put Sir Henry Wheeler's amendment to the Council.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I think the amendment standing in the name of Professor Mukherji should be moved first.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Our amendment should be put first, Sir.

The motion to refuse Rs. 1,00,000 to meet the political situation was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Nishindra Nath.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed.

NOES.

Ahmed, Mr. M.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Biss, Mr. E. E.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Currie, Mr. W. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
De, Babu Panindralal.
Deare, Lieutenant-Colonel S. H.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
French, Mr. F. C.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Hindley, Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. R.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Law, Raja Reshee Case.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Parrott, Mr. P.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshauni:h Chandra.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr W. C.

The Ayes being 45 and the Noes 44, the motion was carried.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 1,48,144 under head '26A.—Presidency Police—Allowances,' be reduced to Rs. 1,00,000."

I find that there is a provision of Rs. 80,000 for travelling allowances. I understand that travelling allowance is not admissible within 5 miles radius of the headquarters. Therefore, it is not understandable how the Calcutta police force is going to spend this Rs. 80,000.

I hope that this sum does not include the provision for the police officers going to Darjeeling to receive instructions or to recruit their health. The married sergeants are now provided with quarters and this house allowance therefore seems unnecessarily large. I therefore press for the reduction suggested in my motion.

Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I want to assure the hon'ble member that this sum has nothing to do with the officers going to Darjeeling. It is made up of fixed travelling allowances. The hon'ble member has rightly said that within a 5 miles radius no travelling allowance, is admissible. But there are some officers who are entitled to fixed travelling allowances for example, fixed travelling allowances are allowed to 52 Inspectors, 238 Sub-Inspectors and sergeants. It amounts to Rs. 73,330, the remaining Rs. 6,000 is reserved for gazetted and non-gazetted officers when they have to travel outside Calcutta. It is very often necessary to send detective officers to make inquiries. Therefore, the provision of Rs. 80,000 which is Rs. 13,000 less than what the Commissioner of Police asked for, cannot be reduced without reducing the fixed travelling allowances which the officers are entitled to.

As regards house allowances, I have a list here which I shall be glad to show to the Hon'ble Member and which shows that these allowances consist of special allowances, departmental allowances, traffic department allowances, Cossipore Gun Foundry allowances, police training school allowances, orderly and armed police allowances and allowances for two Assistant surgeons for teaching First Aid to the police. The total comes up to Rs. 67,848 and there is a further allowance for Government House guards. These allowances are actual allowances and I therefore cannot agree to any reductions in them.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I do not want to press my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 8,44,000 under head '26A.—Presidency Police—Contingencies' be reduced by Rs. 1,44,000."

This amendment is in reference to the demand for contingencies. From the Budget it will be seen that a very large sum has been asked for under the head "Contingencies."

Referring to the details I find that there is a provision of Rs. 3,85,000 under the head rents, rates and taxes. Sir, I raise this point in order to bring to the notice of the Council the fact that the rents paid by the Calcutta Police for the houses they occupy in different parts of the city are unreasonable and extravagant. I have information that certain houses have been taken on lease by the Calcutta Police on terms which

are absolutely unreasonable. If my friend the Hon'ble Member in charge asks me to cite specific instances, I am prepared to give them to him, but I do not want to place them before the Council. But without giving any specific instances, I may say that some of these transactions have been unjustifiable. I enter my protest against such transactions and for that I raised this discussion. In certain cases I find that houses have been rented at twice and even at two and a half times their previous rents in spite of the Rent Act, in spite of the Rent Controller and in spite of the resources of the Government.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: May I, Sir, just ask for one information? Would it not have been convenient to divide the budget heads under contingencies and show rates and taxes separately in every case? In that case it would have been easier for us to know what is the exact amount under contingencies proper and the exact amount under the head "rates and taxes" and other charges.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: If my friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur would look at the Budget he would see that rates and taxes are separately shown among the 12 or 14 items under the head contingencies.

The total of this grant is large, but as I find that exception has been taken to one item only, I will merely deal with that point. It is perfectly true that the rent bill of the Calcutta police is most abominably high and it is going up. Nobody regrets that more than we do. It is due to the unfortunate omission in the past to purchase houses and sites when we had happier times and more reasonable figures of land values, and when it might have been apparent that the need was permanent. But in those days, although our predecessors had not to ask for the vote of the Legislative Council, money was probably equally scarce, and presumably, desiring to make their resources go as far as they could in all directions, they pursued the customary method of starving the police. The consequence is that we are now in a position of having to hire numerous buildings in this city for normal police purposes, and that position can never be satisfactorily solved except by a loan policy which will give the police the permanent accommodation that they require. But we cannot make a move in that direction immediately. At the moment we can only continue on the old hand-to-mouth policy. We do pay high rents; I admit the correctness of that charge; but I would point out that we are in a very exposed position, because landlords know that we have got to have a thana in a particular place, and that there is probably only one building that suits our purpose, and they naturally take advantage of this fact, and take from us as much as they can and far more than we willingly pay. The real difficulty is, as I have said, that instead of having bought lands and houses for their permanent requirements Government have for so long gone on with this

shiftless hand-to-mouth policy of hiring houses, of which we are reaping the fruit, and until we can provide the capital expenditure to buy houses we have no alternative.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I ask a question? I want to know why so much rent is paid when we have got the Rent Act still in force?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I have nothing to add.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I ask another question? Is it a fact that the police are paying Rs. 1,600 a month for a house for which I paid Rs. 500 for the accommodation of the Congress delegates not many years ago?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: We allow a good deal of license in this Council and meet members with information of all sorts in a somewhat informal way, but I must decline to be treated to a cross-examination about details, which I obviously cannot carry in my head with a view to answering off-hand.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I take it that there is no reply to my question.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: The inference is not in any sense to that effect.

The motion was then put and lost.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I move "that the demand for Rs. 16,680 for the salaries of sergeants under head '20A.—Presidency Police—River Police,' be reduced by Rs. 2,680."

For the year 1920-21, the grant under this head was Rs. 13,717; for 1921-22, it was Rs. 14,000; and for the year under discussion *viz.*, 1922-23, the grant has been shown as Rs. 16,680. I beg to move that the excess demand of Rs. 2,680 may be refused.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Taking this amendment on the merits I submit that the provision can be justified, and I will briefly refer to those merits rather than answer vague and general comments in favour of economy. The provision deals with 9 sergeants who are employed in the River Police, and the first point to which I would draw the attention of the Council is that the cost of the River Police is borne in a large measure by the Port Commissioners. They pay seven-tenths and we pay three-tenths, and *prima facie* the Council will realise that the Port Commissioners, who are a business body, are not likely to subscribe the major portion of the cost of a force which is of no use to them.

Secondly, there has certainly for the last half a century always been a River Police in Calcutta, and it is obvious—

(At this stage the mover, speaking in Bengali, begged leave to withdraw his motion.)

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: "That the sum of Rs. 82,220 which it is proposed to grant under head 'Presidency Police —River Police,' be refused."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move "that the demand for Rs. 51,600 for the salaries of Inspector-General and Deputy Inspector-General under head '26B.—Superintendence,' be reduced by Rs. 500."

Here also, I would like the principle of reduction in the department to be considered. I think that the higher post in this department should be reserved for the I.C.S. officers and out of five Deputy Inspectors-General for five divisions I believe at least three of them should be recruited from the Deputy Magistrates' cadre. They have got experience as to how to deal with police cases in criminal administration. They may be given the appointments. In this way there may be some savings and also improvement in the department can be attained. I raise this question as the matter is still under the consideration of the police Committee. There may be a general discussion as to the desirability on the point in this Council. Personally speaking I do not wish to say anything against Mr. Hyde, but I think instead of promoting any police officer to the higher post it is better that it should be supervised and controlled by an officer of the I.C.S. cadre, who are also intimately connected with the police affairs and thus there will be a new spirit in the department. I do not think that the salaries of the posts would be much if members of the Provincial Executive Service—two or three officers—are taken. I think in that case there may be a saving. It is for this reason that I have laid the question before the Council and I hope the House will consider it and give their opinion which may be considered by the Police Committee.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: I may be credited with some knowledge of the Police administration in the districts. It is very unfortunate that, in reply to certain questions which I put in the Council, I got no definite information with regard to the Deputy Inspectors-General. To my mind, these officers are of very little practical use to the Police Department, while the cost of maintenance is also prohibitive.

A few years back there was the practice to recruit the Inspector-General of Police from the ranks of the Indian Civil Service, which serve our purpose very well, and the Police administration was more

satisfactory. This charge was introduced on the recommendations of the Police Committee, presided over by Sir Andrew Fraser but subsequently it was found that it made the administration top-heavy. The police in the lower ranks is not properly educated and manned, but we have introduced a large number of Deputy Inspectors-General and Additional and Assistant Superintendents of Police.

Under the head "Superintendents and gazetted officers," we find that there are eight controlling officers, including the Inspector-General who controls them. In the districts, we find that there are 38 Superintendents, 49 Assistant Superintendents of Police and 23 Deputy Superintendents—altogether 110 supervising officers at the same time it must be noted that in the police-stations and *thanas*, there are very few constables for the maintenance of law and order in normal times. I think it should be the policy of Government to reduce the number of high posts and increase the number of those, who are at lowest rung of the ladder, so that the force may be adequately manned and balanced.

It will strike everybody in the Council, that the pay of the high Police officers is rather extravagant and I would therefore urge a revision to the old system of recruiting the Inspector-General from the Civil Service. However, that is a very large question, and on this point I entirely agree with my friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. But I hope this question will be discussed and fully debated, by introducing a resolution on the receipt of the report of the Police Retrenchment Committee. It is very unfortunate that the committee was not able to submit its report before the Budget was prepared, and consequently we are entirely in the dark about their views, and the amendments proposed do not seem to have been framed on proper lines, simply for this reason. I would suggest that until we get their views and comments on the subject, we should wait and not pursue the matter further.

With these few words, I generally support the motive which has led my friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri to move this amendment.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I presume that the purpose of my friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri in giving notice of this motion was to draw attention to the state of things which obtains in the superior grade of the Bengal Police, namely, Superintendents. What we find now is, one Inspector-General of Police, five Deputy Inspectors-General and other gazetted officers, altogether eight. With Bengal as one whole, there were one Inspector-General and two Deputy Inspectors-General and now with half of Bengal cut out we have one Inspector-General, and seven Deputy-Inspectors-General practically. To my mind this is a state of things which ought to be looked into by Government but regard being had to the fact that the Police Retrenchment Committee is now sitting, I do not like to anticipate their judgment. But the point which I would like to bring forcibly to the notice of the House on behalf of the people whom I represent here is that there is a big waste somewhere

in the superintending staff. It has been openly stated and pointed out that men of the Deputy Superintendent classs do the work of post-offices merely forwarding letters backwards and forwards. No doubt the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department will stand up and justify the post of each and all of them and say that even this is insufficient and something more has to be done. But that is only one version of the case. The question is whether these posts are required or they are making the department top-heavy. Anybody having the slightest knowledge of the Police Department knows this. This is the point of view I wish to place before the House.

Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: As I was in doubt as to what led the mover to propose a reduction of Rs. 500 I endeavoured to read up the past history of the Deputy Inspectors-General, but I will not inflict it on the House. I should like to correct Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur when he says that only a few years ago there was only one Inspector-General and no Deputy Inspector-General. These appointments were proposed about the year 1838 or some date previous to it, but in the Act of 1861 provision was made for a Deputy Inspector-General and this appointment has been going on since then. I think the House will not agree with the mover that the present is a suitable time for a general discussion of the question of the abolition of the Deputy Inspectors-General. If such a general discussion was ever going to be useful it might have been at the original stage of the Budget discussion and not now; in the short time at our disposal for the passing of grants I think the House will resent it if I attempt to go into this question. As has been already said the Police Retrenchment Committee has been furnished with all the information it asked for on the subject of Deputy Inspectors-General and is presumably considering that as one of the many points which come within its purview. I shall not attempt to anticipate what their verdict will be, but I would ask the Council to wait until we have seen what their considered opinion is and until that considered opinion has been further considered in this Council.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I beg to withdraw the amendment standing in my name.

The following amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for travelling allowance under '26B—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 5,000.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I move "that the demand for 'Hill allowances under Superintendence—Detailed account, 26B.—District Executive Force' be refused."

I beg to mention that the Inspector-General of Police and other officers of his department have no necessity to go to the hills, and it is on this ground that I move my amendment.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: This small provision of Rs. 1,500 is not on account of the visits of the Inspector-General of Police to the hills, as when he goes to the hills he gets no allowance for so doing. But given the fact that the Governor and the Members of Council do go to the hills under the present system for a short time, occasion does arise and justification exists for the Inspector-General also spending a short time there, and last year, when he thus went to Darjeeling, he took with him 2 clerks and 2 orderlies. This small provision is in respect of the hill allowances to which they are entitled. As exemplifying to the Council the actual effect given to my assurance some time ago that we would curtail this expenditure as far as possible, may I point out that in respect of the police the expenditure of this kind has dwindled from Rs. 3,622 in 1918-19, Rs. 2,922 in 1919-20 and Rs. 3,337 in 1920-21, to Rs. 1,265 last year, thus redeeming my promise that we should reduce this allowance by something between one-third and one-half. Even after the production of the Budget we think, on further scrutiny, that the amount may be reduced by the sum of Rs. 500, and if the mover cares to alter his amendment accordingly, I am prepared on behalf of Government to agree. I may mention that last year the Inspector-General was only at Darjeeling for about one month between the middle of April and middle of May, and one month between the middle of September and October, which included the *Pujas*.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I accept the assurance of the Hon'ble Member and beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I beg to withdraw the amendment standing in my name.

The following amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for house rent and other allowances under '26B.—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 500."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 35,000 under head '26 B.—Superintendence—Allowances' be reduced to Rs. 18,500."

I have heard what has fallen from the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler but still I am not convinced that these hill allowances are necessary for the Inspector-General of Police.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The amount has already been reduced to Rs. 1,000.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: My proposal is that the demand for Rs. 35,000 should be reduced to Rs. 18,000. The head of the Police Department has no need to sojourn in the hills away from the headquarters at the expense of the taxpayers.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The question of hill allowances has been decided: it has been reduced to Rs. 1,000. You can deal with the other part of your amendment.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I do not wish to repeat what I have said on previous occasions on the subject of hill allowances; so I need not take up the time of the Council.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I think Dr. Haridhan Dutt is seeking by his amendment to effect a saving of Rs. 17,000 in a total provision of Rs. 35,000. But as he has mentioned, his main objection is in respect of hill allowances, which, as now modified by a vote of the Council, will amount to Rs. 1,000 only. I need only point out that to bring about a saving of Rs. 17,000 in respect of a total provision of Rs. 1,000 only is an arithmetical impossibility.

The motion was put and lost.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I move "that the demand for Rs. 36,900 for the salaries of the Assistant Superintendent of Police under head '26 C.—District Executive Force—District Police' be reduced by Rs. 31,900."

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The lump sum of Rs. 36,900 is made up of two items, Rs. 27,900 and Rs. 9,000; of this, the former sum is a non-voted item, so you can speak only about the balance, namely, Rs. 9,000.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

On page 87 of the Budget, Rs. 36,900 has been shown as a non-voted item; the same amount has also been written in this motion. It appears that the Government have made a mistake; the actual sum which is non-voted is Rs. 9,000. I have also been asked not to speak in regard to anything upwards of the amount, but that I can speak about Rs. 9,000. For the year 1921-22, the grant was only for Rs. 3,000. Therefore, Rs. 9,000 is an excessive demand for this year. So I shall be the last person to allow the excess demand.

Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I think that this motion has been moved under a complete misapprehension. The item "non-voted" is Rs. 36,900. At the time the Budget was prepared certain Assistant Superintendents had recently been appointed and they were appointed for war services in India. The Inspector-General in preparing the Budget concluded

that they would be appointed by the Government of India and therefore they would come under the "voted" item. But they were appointed by the Secretary of State and therefore the provision for them falls under "non-voted." The only provision that would remain, namely, Rs. 9,000 is the pay of one Assistant Superintendent of Police who has been appointed in India and therefore comes under the voted head and not the non-voted. As the member has not expressed a wish to cut down his pay, I trust he will not withdraw his amendment.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move "that the demand for Rs. 91,920 for the salaries of Deputy Superintendents under head '26C.—District Executive Force' be reduced by Rs. 18,000."

I think the Deputy Superintendents of Police or at least many of them are appointed from the rank of Inspectors. So far as I know, the services of some of these Deputy Superintendents are practically utilised in correspondence work in the district headquarters. There are 23 such officers and I think some of them can be conveniently transferred to other offices. These officers have not added to the strength of the department in the mufassal at any rate. So far as my own district is concerned, I have made some inquiries and have come to know that so far as investigation of crime and maintenance of law and order is concerned, the number of highly-paid police officers is too many. There are 200 Inspectors, 49 Assistant Superintendents and 38 Superintendents. These posts can, in my opinion, be safely abolished. We spend on an average a large sum; so if these posts are dissolved and amalgamated with those of the Inspectors a great deal of saving can be made. So I propose that the sum provided for the salaries of Deputy Superintendents in the next year's Budget be reduced by Rs. 18,000.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I would ask the Council not to be misled by more or less happy *ipse dixits* of individual members to the effect that "from what I know of their work in my own district, and the inquiries I have made, such and such officers, I think, can easily be dispensed with; they are purely supernumerary and do nothing useful." Surely a serious service like the police, which has been constituted after innumerable inquiries and on the advice of many expert men acquainted with the details of district administration, is entitled to a little more consideration. This grade of Deputy Superintendents was the outcome of the inquiries of the last Police Commission, which was presided over by Sir Andrew Fraser, one of the strongest bodies of men acquainted with the Police Department that has sat in recent times. I have never been able to understand, even from the point of view of some members of this Council, why they so constantly are down upon these Deputy Superintendents. These officers are not all promoted from the ranks; a proportion of them is recruited direct in the hope of

attracting men of education and good family who will raise the moralé of the Indian supervising force. These Deputy Superintendents are the counterpart of the Provincial Service in the executive line; just as we have the Indian Civil Service and the Provincial Service, so in the same manner we have the Imperial Police Service and the Provincial Service represented by the Deputy Superintendents. If it is the wish of many members of this Council, among whom Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri ranks himself, even to be able to replace the Imperial Services by the Provincial Services, either in whole or in part—a process which is going on in the Indian Civil Service in the listed posts—what is the sense in seeking to do away with the Service from whom these recruits would have to be drawn? Far from their being a useless body of men we are, in this young body of Deputy Superintendents, building up a staff of good tone and reputation who are helping to raise the whole moralé of the police, and I put it to the Council that there is no justification for summarily dismissing them.

The motion was put and lost.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move " that the demand for Rs. 18,98,820 for Sub-Inspectors under head '26C.—District Executive Force ' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Here also, in my estimation, there are more Sub-Inspectors than are actually required. So far as I remember, the Fraser Committee's report contemplated that every sub-Inspector should at least enter 100 cases every month; but in practice this has not been followed; the proportion at present is rather less. So, Sir, I am of opinion that the number of Sub-Inspectors can be decreased and it is for this purpose that I have brought forward this resolution which recommends that the number of Sub-Inspectors be decreased as circumstances permit.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I have very closely followed the speech of my esteemed friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, in respect of his previous as well as the present motion. What I find is this. He considers that the number of Sub-Inspectors is much more than is necessary and that some of them should be sent away, so that a saving of Rs. 10,000 might be made. Possibly, he may have good grounds for thinking so, living as he does in the mufassal. But I would suggest that before we reduce the number of these Sub-Inspectors, we should put the matter before the Police Retrenchment Committee, which is still sitting. I do not know whether my friend is a member of the Committee or not, but if he is not, I hope the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, who, I believe, is the President of the Committee, might invite him to take part in its discussion and place his views and recommendations for consideration by the Committee.

In a matter like this, we are at a disadvantage because we are not in possession of facts, and therefore cannot vote straightaway on the

motion for the reduction of Rs.10,000 from the total demand. My friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, I think, must have thought out a regular scheme with regard to this motion. I have sympathy with his proposal, but I think it should be placed before the Police Retrenchment Committee before we come to a decision regarding it in this Council.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I have no objection to having this matter referred to the Police Retrenchment Committee, and in that view I am ready to withdraw my amendment.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: There is no need to refer this matter to the Police Committee which is free to discuss anything connected with the Police Department.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: May I have an assurance from the Hon'ble Member in charge that this item will be included in the deliberations of the Police Retrenchment Committee?

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I can only say that the whole administration of the Police Department is open to examination by this committee; if it wishes to examine the question of the number of sub-inspectors it is open to them to do so.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendments, standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, were, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for European constables under District Police, be reduced by Rs. 40,000."

"That the demand for Rs. 4,27,476 for the Temporary District Intelligence Staff, be refused."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move "that the demand for Rs. 5,16,789 under head '26C.—District Executive Force, District Police, Temporary Intelligence Staff—other temporary force' be reduced by Rs. 2,16,789."

In introducing the Budget the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr with all his protestation of parsimony practically confessed that the budget estimate is in reality a reproduction of the revised estimate of the current year's expenditure, but a scrutiny of the police budget reveals to us that things are not what they seem. The budget estimate for the current year for the temporary force was Rs. 3 lakhs, and the revised estimate is about Rs. 2,20,000. But in the present budget estimate the figure against this item is Rs. 5,18,000, so it is not an exact replica after all. In fairness, however, to the department, I must say that in a note dated the 10th March, circulated to us, an explanation of this increase of about Rs. 3 lakhs has been given. I think I had better quote the explanation:—

The total cost of the District Intelligence Branch staff is now shown under a separate head which accounts for the apparent increase. Provision is made for the

full staff previously sanctioned in case its employment should become necessary. But the staff actually employed at present is much less. The total provision for the temporary District Intelligence staff includes their allowances and the clerical staff.

This is what is stated in the n... ... order to clearly understand the next year's budget estimate, I think I should give the total estimated cost of the District Intelligence Branch in the current year excluding travelling allowance and contingencies which, as is apparent from the note, are not included in the next year's Budget.

I would explain here that the District Intelligence Branch is that branch of the Police service which is in charge of political crimes, and was a most important branch of administration in the days of secret societies, which committed political dacoities and murders and carried on an anarchical propaganda in the country; but secret propaganda has now given place to open propaganda of the non-co-operators, and it is an admitted fact, that there is nothing secret about the present political programme of the non-co-operators. As such, this branch of the police service is not so important as it was a few years back. Government also recognise this, and have effected considerable economy compared with what the expenditure was previously. The current year's budget estimate was Rs. 4,77,000 and was distributed as follows:—

	Rs
Pay of 3 Superintendents of Police, 20 inspectors, 51 sub-inspectors, 91 head constables and 341 constables	2,50,000
Allowance of these officers	1,62,000
Ministerial establishment consisting of 36 clerks	65,000
Total ...	4,77,000

The current year's budget estimate for temporary force, including Rs. 2,50,000 for the salaries of the staff of the District Intelligence branch, was Rs. 3 lakhs, so the budget estimate for other temporary force was only Rs. 50,000; whereas this year's figures for the same item is Rs. 91,000, or in other words, an increase of Rs. 41,000 has been effected for which no explanation has been given. My submission, therefore, is that this excess demand of Rs. 41,000 should be refused.

Now, I take up the District Intelligence Branch itself. The current year's budget estimate, as I have already stated, was Rs. 4,77,000. I have not got the figures of the revised estimate before me, but from information in my possession I find that in place of 3 superintendents of police, 20 inspectors, 51 sub-inspectors, 91 head constables and 341 constables, only 2 superintendents of police, 18 inspectors, 45 sub-inspectors, and 68 constables were actually employed during the year, so the revised estimate must have been considerably less than the sanctioned amount of Rs. 4,77,000. Roughly calculating the saving it must have been Rs. 1,12,000, under the head "salaries" alone, and Rs. 63,000 under the head "allowance" or Rs. 1,75,000 in all. The revised estimate for the District Intelligence Branch therefore would be

Rs. 2,52,000. We have been told that we should stick to these revised estimates for this year, as far as possible in our next year's budget; it has also been admitted in the note, that the staff actually employed is much less than that for which the demand is made. In the circumstances I submit that the demand should be granted only to the extent of Rs. 2,52,000, or in other words, we should reduce the demand by Rs. 1,75,000. Thus the total demand that we can safely refuse, is Rs. 2,16,000, namely, Rs. 1,75,000 for the District Intelligence Branch, and Rs. 41,000 for other temporary force. In that case we shall leave to the department Rs. 2,52,000 for the District Intelligence Branch and Rs. 50,000 for other temporary force. Should there be any necessity in future to entertain a larger staff, I am quite sure, from past experience, that the Hon'ble Member will find us quite willing to grant his further demands. The House should, on no account, grant a demand for which the department itself says that there is no immediate necessity. The House should reserve to itself the right to scrutinise every demand that is placed before it; a part of this demand of Rs. 5,18,000 is, moreover, quite imaginary, and I hope, therefore, that the House will agree with me, and reduce the demand to the extent asked for by me.

I have the details of the reductions made; if the Hon'ble Member wants it, I shall be glad to give it to him.

Mr. S. R. DAS: I oppose this amendment, and I should like to say very shortly my reason for opposing it. I do so on two grounds. We have had a number of figures thrown at us by the Kumar; I want the House to consider whether it is at all possible for us to form our judgment upon these figures at this stage. We have appointed a committee of the members of this House to go into the question, and surely we ought to wait, before we decide in regard to these matters, for the detailed report of this committee. I submit, with all respect to the House, that it is not possible for the members of this House simply to hear what one member has to say—I do not deny that he has studied the subject—and then to try and form a judgment upon it. I suggest, therefore, that the House should not vote in favour of this motion in the state in which it has been placed before us.

There is another matter that I desire to bring before the House, and that is this: I wholly disagree with the Kumar Sahib when he says that there are no secret societies at the present moment. I have in my pocket at the present moment, a list showing the names of persons who are going about all over the country forming secret societies——

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I did not follow the last sentence of the speaker.

Mr. S. R. DAS: I said I had a list of persons going about all over the country forming secret societies and taking part in dacoities in Mymensingh and secret societies are being formed in Dacca, Chittagong and

Mymensingh and portions of North Bengal. I brought this list with me intending to hand it over to the Government. Government is no doubt also aware of some of them. Obviously, I cannot either mention names or details to this House. Therefore, I think that the House would be entirely wrong in coming to the conclusion from the statement we have just heard, that secret societies are not likely to be formed within a short space of time.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: I do not think we can accept the statement of Mr. Das unless he can substantiate it.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: After the detailed explanation given by the Kumar Bahadur as regards why this amount should be reduced, I do not think I will trouble the House by going over the details all over again, but I am somewhat surprised at the attitude taken up by Mr. Das. He says that because the Kumar Bahadur has given certain figures, therefore, the question ought not to be considered now.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: May I rise to a point of order? What does Mr. Mallik mean, and whom does he refer to as the Kumar Bahadur?

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I mean Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray. If it will satisfy the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur, I will call him the Kumar Sahib or the Kumar.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You should address him by his correct name. (Voices: "His correct name is Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray—not Bahadur. He is wrongly described as Kumar here. Has he been created a Kumar?")

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: His name is Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: I believe there is also something known as a courtesy title.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: As regards the question we were discussing: after one year's absence form this Council it is very depressing to find Mr. S. R. Das stand up and say nothing more than this. He has said that because a lot of figures have been given to the Council, nothing can be considered now. What about other matters that are brought before us; figures are given to us, we have nothing to do with them, and the matter is simply placed before us for our vote and decided. The Council are not given an opportunity of considering any matters; the same thing happened as regards the sowars for the police in the northern part of Calcutta, the matter was placed before us and it was voted upon.

Mr. Das takes a list out of his pocket which he tells us is of societies which are very dangerous and are being formed all over the country; he tells us of all this, and expects us to take it on trust. I am sorry I am not prepared to do this. Mr. Das is the Government adviser on these matters, and is in a position to get information about secret societies and the like. He is expected to advise Government about the present situation, and as to what ought to be done. He should not draw a list out of his pocket and expect us to accept it on trust. That is not wise; that does not befit him; because he takes his stand on a list in his pocket which he does not dare to bring out, mentioning that there are so many secret societies in Bengal, therefore, this amount must be voted for! After one year's silence we expected something better from him.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I protested yesterday against personal references and questions being decided on personal grounds, and to-day I see that we have been indulging in personalities galore. We should not indulge in personalities here. The question is whether the grant for the police training school should be reduced or not. "Mr. S. R. Das," the "Kumar Bahadur" and all these things have nothing to do with the question——. (A voice: "'Kumar Bahadur' is wrong.")

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: All that you have said has nothing to do with the Police Training School. We are discussing item No. 223A.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am very sorry to find that the question has not been considered on its merits, but on personal grounds.

Therefore I say, let the question be considered on its merits, and I think as Babu Surendra Nath Mallik is a member of the Police Committee, he should have objected to it then, and given reasons here why the matter was not objected to in the Committee stage.

The following amendment, standing in the name of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the sum of Rs. 4,27,476 which it is proposed to grant for the Temporary District Intelligence Staff be reduced to Rs. 3,00,000, the reduction being in the voted portion of the item."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move "that the demand for Temporary District Intelligence Staff under head '26C.—District Executive Force' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

I need not go into details. The Kumar Sahib has done that. I think in a matter like this, really a large amount like this, should not be granted, and in my motion I have suggested a reduction of one lakh. We should not be influenced by any opinion that may be supplied by Mr. S. R. Das. If an emergency arises, the House will not be unwilling

to grant any additional amount, if it is necessary for the maintenance of peace and order. This is a separate matter. Upon information produced from any member's pocket, we should not be influenced and grant such a large amount for a so-called emergency. The Kumar Sahib has shown that so much is not necessary. I also propose that there should be a reduction of Rs. 1,00,000, and there will be a saving of that amount which can be used as necessity arises. The House will not be unwilling to grant further amounts on a full explanation being given of the circumstances under which any further demand may be necessary.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I think this matter might be discussed without any heat whatever. In the first place, I beg to point out that we are all interested in seeing that no anarchical or revolutionary movement is on foot; we are equally anxious for the safety of life and property. In this particular item, I was one of those who advised Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri not to press this reduction, having regard to the fact that the whole question is before the Police Retrenchment Committee.

As regards this item of temporary staff, I presume we are entitled to move motions for reduction in order to elicit information on the subject, but I do not think it will in any way hamper the decisions of the Government. At the same time, I may point out that the Kumar has not moved for a reduction of the whole amount, but only for a portion of the demand. Further it may be noted that this item is for temporary Intelligence Staff, which is separately shown this year, but it was not so in the preceding year's Budget, and therefore I think it is rather premature on our part to ask that the sum may be reduced to either half or by one lakh as proposed by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri. Government, being responsible for the safety of the country, will certainly want a certain sum of money for the Intelligence Staff, and if more money is required later on, it can be asked for and we shall be prepared to give it.

As regards the information, which our esteemed colleague Mr. S. R. Das has got in his possession, I think in fairness to the movers of the resolutions it would have been quite convenient to both parties, and in justice to my other colleagues in the House, if he had communicated the information in his possession. After all we have not come here to fight each other. I think instead of springing this surprise upon the House, if he had communicated it to the movers of the resolution, it would have been better.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: I have not the least desire to enter into personalities, and I do not think anybody else besides the member for the University will consider that attacking the views of any member here is entering into personalities, nevertheless I wish to protest against what I consider to be a breach of Parliamentary etiquette on the part of Mr. S. R. Das when he foists upon this Council information of certain secret societies which exist only in his pocket. I consider

it a breach of etiquette because Mr. Das cannot and will not, I suppose on the plea of State secrets, divulge his information. Moreover, these societies cannot possibly be very secret if Mr. Das is aware of them; or possibly the system of espionage which Mr. Das practises is far more efficient than that under the Government, because Mr. Das is aware of these societies and the Government is not——

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You must withdraw the expression "espionage."

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Das is in possession of certain information which Government itself is not in possession of——

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You must withdraw that expression.

Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: If you consider it offensive I shall certainly withdraw it.

I did not intend to cast any aspersion upon Mr. Das, but what I suggested was that it is strange that he should be in possession of information of which Government itself is not aware. Such information, coming from a private member, is hearsay and cannot be relied upon. I do not intend to cast any aspersions on Mr. Das, but I do say it was not fair on his part to make any assertions without attempting to substantiate them, and I beg the Council not to be led away by them. In the same manner, I too can produce a list from my pocket—I have not a list with me now; but I can make one—of a number of venal officers in the Police Service, of the higher and lower grades, whose exploits are handed on from month to month, but which I, too, am not prepared to substantiate except as a rumour; but I hesitate on this ground to do so, though Mr. Das does not.

I also beg to bring to the notice of the Council that this demand for temporary staff has itself been considered by Government to be unnecessary: "Provision is made for full staff previously sanctioned in case its employment should become necessary, but the staff actually employed at present is much less."

I therefore leave it to the Council to decide whether, in the circumstances, there is any need for the employment of this staff and for any further grant in excess of the actual expenditure.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray moved an amendment by quoting certain figures and making a statement that as there is no longer non-co-operation or anarchism, the temporary staff is not necessary.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I did not say that. I only said that——

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You can correct him after he has finished.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: It seems unfortunate that our great Kumar wherever he might be, always thinks that he is administering justice to his impertinent tenants (Cries of: "Order, order"). Then, Mr. S. R. Das has said that he has got positive information that there are secret societies and that additional staff should be maintained. My esteemed friend, Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, the well-known criminal lawyer of Bengal, has said that we cannot accept Mr. Das's statement unless and until the information is given out. He always gets hold of the police sub-inspectors or inspectors in police cases and exposes them in their own lining. We cannot therefore blame him. But the question before the House is whether we should accept the surmises of the Kumar—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: He ought to give my full name.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: I beg his pardon.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray's surmise should be accepted or the positive information of Mr. Das, or the decision of the Government to have this amount put in the Budget—that is the whole question. I do not think that any reasonable man can accept or act upon a surmise against a positive information.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: A certain amount of irrelevancy has been introduced in the discussion of this item, but I will try and explain, as briefly as possible, what the merits of the matter are. The local Government is often accused of not being particularly intelligent, even with such resources as it has at its command. But I take it that the Council has no wish that we should voluntarily reduce ourselves to a state of deafness and blindness as to what is going on around us; and it was with a view to avoiding, or at least mitigating, that unhappy contingency, that a staff of this kind is employed. Consistently for the last 12 or 15 years, the need of a special staff of this nature has been recognised in Bengal. In the old days, when it was mainly a matter of arresting dacoits or tracking thieves and murderers, the same need was not so prominent, but, as I say, for about 12 or 15 years, the need has been forced to the front and has had to be met. There have been many changes in organisation with which I need not worry the Council. At one time, men have been added to the ordinary district staff; at another time control has been more centralised at headquarters; but finally what we did was to accord sanction to a staff, which, at the time the orders were passed, we thought justifiable on the merits, but in the interests of economy, not to employ more men than were needed according to the changing circumstances of the moment, always working with as low a proportion of the staff as we could. This staff we post to those areas

in which the need of them is urgent at any moment and in the distribution and extent of it, we are guided by events. That is the establishment with which these amendments are concerned. The cost on the sanctioned scale is that given in the Budget, namely: Rs. 4,37,000, but at the present moment we are actually employing a staff at a cost of about Rs. 3,28,000. It has been said this afternoon: "Well, if that is so, why not knock off the odd lakh?" I put it to the Council that in a matter of this kind we must claim to have a certain amount of latitude and elasticity allowed us. The need is not constant; at one time it arises here, at another time it arises there; it is sometimes less here or greater there. We have to cope with the need as it arises, and I may mention here that on the 22nd March, the staff which was employed was perceptibly greater, though still within the sanctioned scale, than the staff which was employed on the 31st December. I merely instance that, to show the fluctuations which characterise work of this kind; and I press, therefore, that the amount should not be unduly cut down. We can show to the Council that we are exercising the utmost economy in this matter and we ought to be allowed to continue on the line which is at present followed.

Into the precise nature of the information which may or may not be in the possession of Government, I do not propose to enter. But it must be obvious to anyone who uses his eyes, ears and intelligence, that with the ferment of opinion and agitation which characterises India at the present moment, many things must be going on upon which it is incumbent that Government should keep an eye, and of which it is obligatory upon Government to keep itself informed to the best of its ability. For that reason, we require an establishment of this kind, and we cannot define at any one moment its constant extent. I have already explained how we are working with every wish to enforce rigid economy, cutting expenditure down to the lowest possible level. But if it be any satisfaction to the Council that I should give tangible proof of our wish to maintain that policy, I am willing to agree to a further reduction of Rs. 27,000 ("Hear, hear"), leaving us with a smaller margin than now exists. But with that smaller margin, I ask that we be left, as it is not more than sufficient to allow us to adjust our arrangements to the needs of the amount.

I would, therefore, reduce the demand to one of Rs. 4,00,000.

Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray's motion was then put and lost.

Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri's motion was then put, and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Charmakar, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.

Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlul.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed.

NOES.

Ahmed, Mr. M.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Biss, Mr. E. E.
Bompas, Mr. C. H.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Colvin, Mr. C. L.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Currie, Mr. W. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Babu Panindralal.
Deare, Lieutenant-Colonel B. H.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
French, Mr. F. C.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hindley, Lieutenant-Colonel, C. D. M.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
James, Mr. R. H. L. Langford.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Babu Devendra Lal.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Larmour, Mr. F. A.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Muir, Mr. R. H.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon
Parrott, Mr. P.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilall Singh.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Spry, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 27 and the Noes 55, the motion was lost.

The following amendment was, in the absence of the member deemed to be withdrawn.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand for the Police Training School at Dacca, be refused."

The following amendment was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Police Training School, under head '26C.' be reduced by Rs. 77,100 (including the cost for Police Training Schools at Dacca and Howrah)."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I move "that the demand for Rs. 12,97,000 for District Police under '26C.—District Executive Force—Travelling allowances,' be reduced by Rs. 1,20,000."

This motion concerns a very big item of expenditure. Although it seems that the House is not in a mood to lend its support to my motion,

I think it is incumbent on my part to say a few words in the name of truth and justice. The expenditure under this head is going up every year by leaps and bounds. Rs. 10,56,000 was budgeted for the year 1921-22. There has been an increase of Rs. 2,41,000 for the year 1922-23. I do not see the reason for this continual increase in the Budget grant under this head. It may be quite possible that in order to cope with the non-co-operation movement in this country, this amount is necessary; but, to my mind, that movement is dwindling day by day. There is no sign of unrest here at the present moment. In the Imperial Legislative Assembly, 5 or 10 per cent. is invariably cut down from some item, and this is done there without assigning any specific reasons. Why should we not follow the practice of the Legislative Assembly here, specially when this Province is bankrupt, and especially when the question of revenue is concerned? This is my last motion, so far as the heading "Police" is concerned. I do not want to call for a division, but I hope that the Hon'ble Member will see his way to curtail at least Rs. 20,000, if Rs. 1,20,000 is not possible.

With these few words, I beg to move my motion.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: This motion has reference to the travelling allowances of the district police, for which the voted provision is Rs. 12,97,000. That, of course, is a big item, but it concerns a big force, and when we have got some 20,000 men travelling in connection with their duties, the bill is necessarily a heavy one. It is rather to the heaviness of the bill that I understand the Kumar wishes to object. But we have already cut the Inspector-General a lakh on what he asked, and we do not feel that it would be safe to make a further reduction. After all, provisions of this kind are based largely on what are called budget calculations. The need for the demand is not challenged and its extent is best left to those who are experienced in budgeting. Budgeting is, after all, nothing but guessing what will be the likely expenditure of the ensuing year, in the light of the actuals of the past and any facts which we know are likely to happen in the year in question. In that sense we think that this sum is a fair provision, and it is not susceptible of further reduction.

The motion was then put and lost.

The movers being absent, the following amendments were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 14,80,101 under head '26C.—District Police—Allowance,' be reduced to Rs. 10,30,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Contingencies, under head '26C,' be reduced by Rs. 1,62,168 (under the heading of the cost of fixed boat-hire and contingencies)."

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: " That the sum of Rs. 1,97,168 which it is proposed to grant for fixed boat-hire and contingencies of the District Executive Force be reduced to Rs. 1,50,000."

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: I move " that the sum of Rs. 81,000 which it is proposed to grant for rewards to the District Police—District Executive Force, be reduced by Rs. 30,000."

I think that this amount is meant for giving rewards to constables of the reserved force of the district police. The pay of constables has recently been increased and we are all crying for retrenchment. I do not think that they should get so much in the shape of rewards. I therefore propose a reduction of Rs. 30,000.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: This provision of Rs. 81,000 is for rewards which are given not only to the police force but very often to members of the public who assist the police; similarly, also, to village chaukidars. Probably many of the members of the Council who have been to Dacca must have been present when His Excellency the Governor holds the annual police parade there, and they may remember that that function always ends with an extensive distribution of rewards. Indeed the number and extent of the rewards show what a number of instances there are in the course of a year in which both the public assists the police and individual police officers do conspicuous pieces of good work. Thus non-official gentlemen, sometimes in batches of 12 or 15, receive guns and other presents in recognition of their services. This provision is meant for that sort of expenditure. It is the same provision as last year; it is practically less than the revised estimate and also less than the actuals of 1920-21; and, viewing the demands we have on us we think it should be retained at that figure. After all, the more the occasions for giving rewards the better the work that is being done, and to that extent it is a matter for congratulation. We have often been told, with a certain amount of truth, that by a little more rewarding and little less punishing we are likely to get better work out of our men.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The movers being absent, the following amendments were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: " That the demand under head '26C.—District Executive Force—Contract and other Contingencies, ' be reduced to Rs. 16,00,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: " That the sum of Rs. 1,23,40,000 which it is proposed to grant for the District Executive Force, be reduced by Rs. 3,00,000."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I move " that the demand for ' the Superintendents, detailed accounts 26E.—Railway Police ' be reduced by Rs. 8,000."

I wish to urge reductions of the sum provided under the heading "Superintendents, Railway Police" from two considerations. First, that the provisions made here is larger than that of the last Budget, although no mention is made about it in the Black Book when explaining the increase in the estimate under "Eastern Bengal Railway Police," and secondly, what is more important, that the Central Government, for whom it is run as a business proposition, should contribute a part of the expenditure incurred in this connection. I move, therefore, that the amount under this item be reduced by a sum of Rs. 8,000 and I hope the House will accept that.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I sympathise with the mover in his endeavour to get money from the Government of India, but I am not very hopeful of the result. For the maintenance of the Railway police force, the Railways have always paid part and the Government have always paid part—seven-tenths and three-tenths. Recently the figures were revised, so that now the Railways pay for watch and ward and the Government for law and order, and the reply of the Government of India would be that if there were no railways at all, we would have to bear the law and order charges. It is really a provincial duty to maintain law and order whether it is on railways or anywhere else. Of course it is a fact that we have had to increase our expenditure on law and order on account of these railways, but I am afraid there is not much chance of getting any money from the Government of India, but the hon'ble mover may rely on our making every possible effort in this direction. Anyhow the actual reduction of course would only affect the pay of the Superintendents.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I move "that the demand of Rs. 1,24,053 for the temporary force under head Criminal Investigation Department, be refused," and in doing so I beg to place the following facts before the House. There was no expenditure under this head in 1920-21, and I find that there was no budget grant for this also in the year 1921-22. This year the demand is Rs. 1,24,000 in addition to Rs. 33,000 non-voted which was again Rs. 31,000 last year. This is for temporary establishment for the Criminal Investigation Department. The regular establishment of the Criminal Investigation Department costs Rs. 1,38,920, as will appear from the Budget Estimate, and the total, voted and non-voted, is Rs. 6,90,000. Then we find from the Financial Statement that the actuals for the Criminal Investigation Department in 1918-19 went up to Rs. 9,31,000 and in 1919-20 they came down to Rs. 8,84,000, in 1920-21 they further came down to Rs. 6,95,000, in 1921-22 the budget estimate was Rs. 6,72,000 and the revised was Rs. 6,50,000, and now it is again going up to Rs. 6,90,000. I therefore move that the demand of Rs. 1,24,053 be refused. Still there will be left Rs. 33,000 which is non-voted.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: I hope that when I tell Babu Surendra Nath Mallik that he is mistaken in his general argument that expenditure was not incurred in this respect last year, he will be content not to press his objection, and if he will inquire of Mr. Spry about it, I have no doubt that Mr. Spry will be able to explain what process of classification has led to this misunderstanding. As a matter of fact, the establishment which is being budgeted for this year is exactly on the lines of that which was entertained last year, and the Council may remember that in April last I made a long speech giving detail by detail exactly the scope of the activities which came within the Criminal Investigation Department, either on the Intelligence side or on the Crime side, those being its two main divisions. That branch is proposed to be continued next year on the same lines, and this temporary provision is on account of the central intelligence force, the criminal tribes section and the special dacoity section which is being employed in view of the regrettable increase in the number of offences of that description. The mover seems to have misunderstood the facts.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I shall be very glad to see Mr. Spry about this matter and if he can explain to me the real position, I shall certainly withdraw my motion. Till then let it stand.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHEELER: Babu Surendra Nath Mallik may take it from me that the facts are as I have stated.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Then I withdraw it.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

As the members were absent, the following amendments were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: "That the sum of Rs. 1,24,053 which it is proposed to grant for the Temporary Force (voted) of the Criminal Investigation Department be reduced to Rs. 1,00,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 1,32,280 under head '26F.—Allowances' be reduced to Rs. 1,00,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 1,32,942 under head '26F.—Contingencies,' be reduced by Rs. 55,000 being the sum provided for secret service money."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA and Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: "That the demand for the secret service money be reduced by Rs 30,000."

The following amendments were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: " That the demand for Rs. 6,35,000 for the Criminal Investigation Department under head '26F.,' be reduced by Rs. 3,00,000."

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: " That the demand of Rs. 6,34,000 for the Criminal Investigation Department be reduced by Rs. 1,55,493."

As the members were absent, the following amendments were deemed to be withdrawn :—

Kumar SHIR SHEKHARESWAR RAY and Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 6,35,000 for the Criminal Investigation Department under head '26F.,' be reduced by Rs. 1,35,000 "

Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,74,11,000 under head '26.—Police ' be reduced by Rs. 5,80,000."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the sum of Rs. 1,74,11,000 which it is proposed to grant under the head, be reduced by Rs. 5,49,000 being the estimated normal growth for 1922-23."

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the sum of Rs. 1,74,11,000 which it is proposed to grant under the head '26.—Police,' be reduced by Rs. 5,00,000."

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I think, Rai Bahadur your amendment fails. Your amendment is that the demand for Rs. 1,74,11,000 be reduced by Rs. 1,000, but it has already been reduced by more than Rs. 1,000. So I think it fails.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: This is only a constitutional motion. A reduction of Re. 1 has been proposed by Professor S. C. Mukherji.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Very well.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I move " that the demand for Rs. 1,74,11,000 be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

I move this amendment in order to bring the question of the unduly heavy character of the Police expenditure for discussion. The expenditure on the police has been increasing every year. It was Rs. 67,37,586 in 1912, in 1919-20 it was Rs. 1,18,66,674, in 1920-21 it was Rs. 1,63,00,000 and this year Rs. 1,76,00,000 is demanded. How can the people of this province reconcile themselves to increasing the police expenditure by 150 per cent. in the course of ten years? This crushing burden on the people cannot be explained by the fact of dangerous political agitations So far as Bengal is concerned the partition agitation

was ten times more widespread and dangerous than the non-co-operation movement of the present day which has hurt the people, especially the school and college boys more than the Government on account of its avowed and real non-violent character. Surely any agitation if widespread may become violent any moment, but that does not justify an additional expenditure of about Rs. 1 crore over the expenditure when there was as widespread an agitation accompanied with bombs, dacoities and murders. There must be a certain proportion between the income of this Government and its expenditure on the police. No zamindar or business firm would tolerate more than 10 per cent. of its income in administration charges. Not even France would tolerate an expenditure of over 20 per cent. in its military expenditure which itself means the financial bankruptcy of the Government. Our expenditure on the police is 20 per cent. of our entire expenditure. We are told that this Council has its Police Committee and it has recommended no reduction.

Those members of the Standing Committee have, however, this day made eloquent speeches against the Government demands. Unfortunately their inexperience makes them impotent and they are as clay at the hands of Sir Henry Wheeler.

Let us see whether there is room for economy. We require an explanation why the Civil Police force has been increased 20 per cent. and the cost increased 50 per cent. The increase in the higher controlling staff has been from 115 to 129. This increase is not justifiable. But the amount spent on these is not much compared with the amounts spent on the constables and head constables. That force has been increased 20 per cent. and their salaries have been increased nearly 50 per cent. Our patriotic legislators justly complain of the increase of the European element of the force. But they should not forget the increase of the Indian element which is the cause of by far the greatest part of the increase in the Police expenditure.

The great increase in the salaries of the constables has been felt by the cartmen and the gharrywallas in the increase of their daily disbursements for the constable has now rightly assumed a position of greater affluence and importance. The increase in the salary of the officers has not added to the efficiency or led to the elimination of corruption in any degree.

It appears that out of nearly 80,000 cases investigated by the police, nearly 14,000 are public nuisance cases, and Penal Code offences only a little above 60,000; of these nearly 50,000 were theft and burglary cases. Fifty per cent. of the cases reported were undetected and in 29 per cent. investigation was refused as useless and of burglary only 3 per cent. and of theft only in 20 per cent. of the cases the accused were convicted. All of us further know that it is dangerous to the inmates of a house to report a theft case to the *thana* for every member of the household, male and

female, has to undergo examination and annoyance in many cases and thefts are rarely detected, for it is admitted that 80 per cent. are not detected. The usefulness of the police in the direct detection of crime is not much, but I must say its usefulness is great in the prevention of crime by the terror it excites in the minds of the people. However that may be, I take credit for the people of Bengal that probably because they are the weakest they are the most inoffensive and most peace-loving people on the face of the earth and Bengal is more free from crimes than any other country. There is no reason for the vast expenditure on the police force here. I am not one of those who would like to see any great reduction, but all that I plead for is the going back to the strength of the force and the expenditure on it as in 1912. I would also have it clearly understood that I am not an admirer of the village chaukidar or panchayets. The poor people of the village require to be protected as much from them as from the regular police.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WHELER: I am afraid I must leave it to the time-limit and the weather more than to any argument which I propose to bring forward to defeat this proposal of the Rai Bahadur, because I think he can hardly expect us on the stroke of 7 P.M. to enter into a lengthy discussion on the merits and demerits of the police. In fact were I to attempt to do so, I should consider the Council quite justified in showing their disapproval by outvoting me. I do not, therefore, propose to run that risk, and I would ask the Rai Bahadur to trust the Retrenchment Committee to examine any matters to which he thinks attention should be given, and not to ask the Council to approve of his motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

As the mover was absent, the following amendment was deemed to have been withdrawn.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand for Rs. 1,74,11,000 under the head '26.—Police' be reduced by Re. 1."

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The question is that the demand for grant under "26.—Police," as settled in Council, be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): I move "that the sum of Rs. 1,17,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '27.—Ports and Pilotage.'"

As Calcutta is a major port, the expenditure in connection with it falls mainly on the Government of India and our part is limited to certain small services which the local Government undertakes in connection with the survey of vessels, etc. Then we have the Agent for Government Consignments who handles consignments for transit all over India.

The next item is the Port Officer's Department at Chittagong. Chittagong being a minor port, this expenditure falls on the local

Government. Then, under the head "Miscellaneous," we have a provision of Rs. 50,000 for expenditure in connection with the Howrah Bridge. The Committee of Engineers whose report was published last week have recommended that we should make up our minds as soon as possible as to the type of the bridge required and then proceed to get specifications and tenders. There will, therefore, be a certain amount of expenditure to be incurred in connection with the bridge during the next financial year. These are all the items that I think I need mention in introducing this demand.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: With reference to the Howrah Bridge, after what has fallen from the Hon'ble Member, I want to have certain information. It has been stated in the report of the Committee that the bridge will cost Rs. 2 crores and that it will take 3½ years time. If we spend Rs. 50,000 next year, then how is it possible that the bridge will be completed in 3½ years' time? Will it be another protracted edition of the Kidderpore Bridge?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: The position with regard to the Howrah Bridge is this. We have got the unanimous recommendation of the Committee of Engineers, which is, of course, entitled to very great respect. But Government felt, before coming to a final decision, that it was advisable to send the report to representative associations, the Chamber of Commerce and so on, in order to obtain their views. We have asked them to let us have their views by the middle of April and we hope to be in a position thereafter to make up our minds as to the type of the bridge to be constructed. Once we have done that, there are two things to be done—one is to get specifications and tenders and the other to arrange about finance. Our intention is to convene a committee to consider the question of finance. It will be necessary obviously to meet the cost of the bridge by means of a loan. We cannot afford to pay for an undertaking of this kind out of our revenues. So it will be necessary to raise a loan and to make arrangements for meeting the service of the loan. That is work which will have to be done after full consultation with all concerned. So this Rs. 50,000 is only for incidental, or what I may call introductory expenditure. It is not expenditure on the bridge itself which will have to be arranged for separately.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Can tramways be taken over the bridge?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: The committee have recommended that tramways shoud be taken over the bridge.

The mover being absent, the following motion was deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: "That the sum of Rs. 1,17,000 which it is proposed to grant under head '27.—Ports and Pilotage,' be reduced by Rs. 50,000 for the proposed new Howrah bridge."

The original demand for Rs. 1,17,000 for expenditure under the head " 27.—Ports and Pilotage " was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter: I move " that a sum of Rs. 21,000 be granted for expenditure under the head ' 30.—Scientific Departments '."

It is a repetition budget. Last year we made the same provision of Rs. 15,000 for the Asiatic Society and Rs. 5,000 for other societies.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Thursday, the 23rd March, 1922, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 23rd March, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the following Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, *viz.*, the Hon'ble Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr, C.S.I., C.I.E., and the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, Kt., the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 98 nominated and elected members.

Starred Question

(to which oral answer was given).

Sentences of imprisonment on political offenders.

***XXXVII. Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing the number of persons undergoing sentences of imprisonment on the 31st January last in Bengal—

(*i*) for offences under the Criminal Law Amendment Act; and

(*ii*) for holding public meetings and processions in the prohibited areas?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is laid on the table .

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. XXXVII.

(*i*) For offences under the Criminal Law Amendment Act—2,011.

(*ii*) There was no person undergoing sentence of imprisonment under the Seditious Meetings Act on the 31st January; there were 153 persons convicted under the Police Act, and 79 persons under section 188, Indian Penal Code; most of these were convicted in connection with prohibited meetings and processions.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Realisation of tax on Sitakund pilgrims.

273. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that under the Puri Lodging-Houses Act, annas eight is realised every year from each pilgrim going to Sitakund (Chittagong)?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Government are contemplating increasing the same by another annas eight per head over and above what is realised at present?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the above-mentioned tax is realised only from those who come from parts other than Chittagong and not from those who reside in the houses of shop-keepers and other inhabitants of the locality?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that there is a feeling of discontent amongst the pilgrims for the realisation of the tax?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of abolishing the tax?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) No fee is realised from the pilgrims directly; the Act does not provide for this. A fee for licenses issued to owners of licensed lodging-houses is realised under section 8 of Act IV of 1871, as amended up to date for Eastern Bengal. This fee was at the rate of eight annas per pilgrim to be lodged till this year. It is not true that every pilgrim is taxed.

(*b*) The fee was raised to the maximum permissible, *viz.*, one rupee per pilgrim to be lodged, this year, at the suggestion of the examiner of local accounts and in accordance with a unanimous resolution of the Sitakund Mela Committee. This does not require the sanction of Government in the Eastern Bengal districts and Government sanction was not therefore applied for.

(*c*) As stated before the fee is a fee not on pilgrims but for licenses issued for lodging-houses. Those who go from Chittagong generally come away the same day or stay with friends. They do not reside in the lodging-houses and are not consequently taxed by the lodging-house keepers. Only lodgers, as defined in the Act, are taxed by the lodging-house keepers.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

(*e*) No, the fee cannot be abolished without withdrawing the Act from Sitakund. If the Act be withdrawn it would not be possible to carry on the essential sanitary arrangements at the time of the Sivaratri Mela for want of funds, and stopping of sanitary arrangements would

lead to disastrous outbreaks of epidemic diseases not only among the pilgrims but also in the district of Chittagong and adjacent districts if not in the whole of the country from which pilgrims come at the time of the Sivaratri Mela.

Wire-netting of upper deck in the passenger steamers of the Joint Steamer Companies.

274. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Marine Department aware that in many passenger steamers, such as the *Miri*, the *Mekla*, etc., of the Joint Steamer Companies, the upper deck is not protected by any wire netting, but it is surrounded with horizontal iron rods one foot apart?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that young children travelling with their mothers especially in the female intermediate class are likely to meet with accidents for this reason?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of drawing the attention of the steamer companies to the matter?

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): (*a*) The Joint Steamer Companies who were consulted have informed Government that the steamer *Miri* has guard rails as required by the regulations. It is incorrect to say that the rails are one foot apart. The *Mekla* is similarly furnished, but has in addition a painted canvas covering from top rail to deck in the intermediate class Wire-netting is not required by the regulations and is not provided.

(*b*) No. The Steamer Companies have no record of young children having met with accidents on this account.

(*c*) No further action is proposed.

Arrests and convictions under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908.

275. Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Depatrment be pleased to lay on the table a statement in a tabular form showing—

(*i*) the total number of arrests and convictions in Bengal under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908 in the month of December last, district by district,

(*ii*) the particular kind of sentences meted out to the persons convicted, and

(*iii*) what proportion of the total have been sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment or over in each district?

(*b*) Is it a fact that most of the above prisoners did not defend themselves in obedience to their cult?

(*c*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of appointing in future some lawyers at Government expense to defend people of this kind during their trial?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler): (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) Yes

(*c*) No.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 275, showing the number of arrests and convictions under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act during the month of December, 1921.

District.	Number of—		Sentences passed.	Proportion sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment or over.
	Arrests.	Convictions.		
Bakarganj ...	39	25	Rigorous imprisonment or fine	Nil.
Bankura ...	...	...	.....	.....
Birbhum ...	7	4	Rigorous imprisonment.	Nil.
Bogra ...	101	6	Rigorous imprisonment or fine.	Nil.
Burdwan ...	...	...	.....	...
Calcutta ...	3,445	1,831	Simple imprisonment, rigorous imprisonment, or fine.	Nil.
Chittagong ...	425	360	Rigorous imprisonment.	One person was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment or a fine of Rs. 1,000.
Chittagong Hill Tracts	...	...	.....	.....
Dacca ...	200	122	Rigorous imprisonment or fine.	Nil.
Darjeeling ...	...	...	.....	.....
Dinajpur ...	...	...	.....	.....
Faridpur ...	546	382	Rigorous imprisonment; fine in some cases.	28·05

District.	Number of—		Sentences passed.	Proportion sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment or over.
	Arrests.	Convictions		
Hooghly ...	...	...	... ..	.....
Howrah ...	226	220	Rigorous or simple imprisonment, fine; some offenders were bound down.	Nil.
Jalpaiguri ...	...	...	.....	.....
Jessore ...	3	3	Rigorous imprisonment.	Nil.
Khulna ...	...	...	.....	.....
Malda ...	...	...	... ..	.....
Midnapore ...	...	...	.....	... ..
Murshidabad ...	...	...	.....	.....
Mymensingh ...	201	151	Rigorous or simple imprisonment; several offenders were bound down.	Nil.
Nadia ...	30	...	.....	.....
Noakhali ...	...	...	.....	.....
Pabna ...	50	18	Simple or rigorous imprisonment.	Nil.
Rajshahi ...	9	7	Simple imprisonment or fine.	Nil.
Rangpur ...	232	147	Rigorous or simple imprisonment; fine.	Nil.
Tippera ...	31	6	Simple imprisonment or caning on the hands.	Nil.
24-Parganas ...	87	52	Simple or rigorous imprisonment; fine.	Nil.

Inquiry into the repeated failure of crops in Khulna.

276. Babu SAILAJA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to

inquire into the repeated failure of crops in the affected area of the Khulna district?

(*b*) If any inquiry has been completed, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table the findings of the inquiry?

(*c*) If not, when is the inquiry likely to be completed?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) A special officer with staff has been deputed by the Irrigation Department to hold an inquiry.

(*b*) The inquiry is not quite complete yet and the report not yet ready.

(*c*) The inquiry is expected to be finished shortly. No definite date can be given.

Prosecution of one Bharat Chandra Karmakar for alleged commission of nuisances in "Jugipukur" tank in village Patharghata in Baraset.

277. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to say whether the District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas took any action under section 277 of the Indian Penal Code against one Bharat Chandra Karmakar of village Patharghata in the Baraset subdivision to prevent the nuisance caused by him to the tank known as "Jugipukur" as requested by the Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal in accordance with the letter of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner of the Presidency Division, No. 131/S, dated the 24th April, 1920?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: No action was taken by the Magistrate under section 277 of the Indian Penal Code against Bharat Chandra Karmakar, but a prosecution was instituted under section 290, Indian Penal Code, which failed.

The Budget of the Government of Bengal, 1922-23.

Demands for Grants.

31.—Education—Reserved.

DEPUTY-SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (Mr. W. C. Wordsworth): I move "that a sum of Rs. 9,46,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '31—Education—Reserved.'"

This is what we usually call the European Education budget. The reference is to page 41 of the Budget statement where the details are given. Up to the present, *i.e.*, for the present year, a part of European education is classified as voted and the other part as non-voted, *i.e.*,

expenditure on European education in the district of Darjeeling was in this year's budget classified as non-voted, but we have recently received instructions from the Government of India that henceforth the whole expenditure on European education is to be voted. The non-voted part of this budget consists of expenditure on non-European education in the two reserved districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Darjeeling.

A few words of explanation may be given with reference to the figures set out at page 41. Government assists European education as it assists Indian education, partly by maintaining its own schools and training schools, partly by giving grants to schools privately-managed, partly by inspection and partly by scholarships. Of the European schools in this province only two are maintained by Government, the boys and girls schools at Kurseong called the Victoria and Dow Hill Schools. In addition Government maintain, attached to the Dow Hill School, a small training school for European girls intending to join the teaching profession. The expenditure on these institutions will be found in the statement at page 41 under the heads of "Government secondary schools" and "Government special schools." In addition Government pays grants to a large number—some five or six dozen—of European schools maintained by private agency, very largely by the agency of religious bodies. The grants to these agencies are paid according to terms laid down in the European Code. They are practically calculated according to a mathematical formula and may therefore be regarded as sanctioned grants. They will be found provided for in this statement under the head "Direct grants to non-Government secondary schools and non-Government primary schools." Further, one Indian Educational Service officer is appointed as Inspector of Schools for European schools. The cost of his salary and of his establishment—which consists entirely of Indian assistants—will be found under this head. Then we have a provision for scholarships which are all sanctioned scholarships given on the results of examination; this provision includes also a small provision for scholarships to Jews, Armenians and Parsi boys and girls, who by special arrangements are admitted into our European schools. Lastly, there is a small sum for miscellaneous charges, the provision for which is a sanctioned provision for the conduct of examinations in connection with our European education. That briefly is the European Schools budget.

I wish to express, on behalf of the community concerned, a community composed largely of poor Europeans and Anglo-Indians, their appreciation of the way in which the Council has met this budget. There is only one motion for reduction and I may say a few words by way of explanation regarding this.

Members of the Council will note that last year, because of dire necessity, we took in hand the reorganisation of the Subordinate Educational Services. The conditions of these two Kurseong schools have been

pressed upon Government for many years. Government was in the position of maintaining two schools which in efficiency and standard lagged far behind many other schools maintained by private agency, and schemes for their improvement were put before Government in 1914-15. Unfortunately it was not possible to take action and in consequence something like a crisis arose at the schools during the war, when it was impossible to find suitable applicants on the salaries available for vacancies that arose in the teaching staff. Last year, the opportunity was taken, when we were revising the pay and conditions of service of the Subordinate Educational Services, to revise also the conditions of service, at these schools. These improved terms, which aimed not only at meeting the economic difficulties of the staff, but also at improving the standard of the schools, took effect from the 1st of September last, and provision has been made in the Budget for the coming year for the continuance of these improved terms. There is, however, one slight uncertainty which, I think, has inspired Mr. Addy to move his resolution. The figures as set out in the Civil Budget Estimate give the present expenses of the staff of these schools at Rs. 62,000 and provide another Rs. 62,000 and Rs. 24,000 for improvement. This distribution of figures is not the distribution made by the Education Department. The actual situation is that the cost of the schools is something like a lakh of rupees a year. That covers the cost of the boys' school, the girls' schools and the training class attached, and it is intended next year to spend Rs. 40,000 on these improved terms. That is the understanding that we have arrived at with the Finance Department and that will be the limit of expenditure on improvement of staff.

With this explanation, I move that a sum of Rs. 9,46,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "31.—Education—Reserved."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: May I ask for one word of explanation? From the amount I presume that when the revision of pay comes on, some of the teachers will get cent. per cent. increase and others will get 145 per cent. This requires explanation. Even if you revise the pay it should not result in cent. per cent. and 145 per cent. increase.

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: I am not able to explain the distribution of these figures. I have said that the Education Department is not responsible for the distribution and we have not yet found a solution of the difficulty. These figures suggest that the cost of the staff is Rs. 62,000 and that the provision for revision is Rs. 62,000. This is incorrect. The cost of the staff is at present, as I have said, something like a lakh, and the second Rs. 62,000 provided for revision includes some Rs. 34,000 or Rs. 35,000 already paid in salaries to the staffs. But the figures should be distributed thus—present cost of staffs of the three institutions, about a lakh, total provision for revision, Rs. 40,000. We require Rs. 40,000 next year to carry out the reorganisation already

agreed on and commenced and we cannot do with less. The reorganisation is more than the improvement of the pay of the present members of the staff. It provides also for certain additional appointments, a number of which are required to bring the schools up to standard. It is not, however, intended to make all these appointments at once, or while financial stringency obtains. During the coming year only those additional appointments will be made which are urgent and imperative, and such parts of the reorganisation scheme as can be postponed until a later date will be postponed. From this explanation it will be understood that the rate of improvement of pay of the staff does not reach a hundred per cent. or more, as suggested by the mover, nor does the scheme provide for any such increase. The rate of increase varies: at a rough guess I would say that the average advantage is somewhere between 25 and 40 per cent. I trust, therefore, that the Council will agree to reject the amendment.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: In that case I wish to move the following amendment standing in the name of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy:—

"That the sum of Rs. 62,100 which it is proposed to provide for the revision of the salaries of masters and mistresses of the Government Secondary Schools—European and Anglo-Indian Education, be reduced to Rs. 46,670."

Generally the increment proposed is 25 per cent. all round, and there has been a desire to reduce increments given already to several officers. To be consistent, therefore, the amendment should be accepted.

The motion was put and lost.

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 9,46,000 for expenditure under the head "31.—Education—Reserved," was then put and agreed to.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): I move "that a sum of Rs. 1,09,86,000 be granted for expenditure under the head 31.—Education—Transferred."

If the members will turn to page 101 of the Civil Budget Estimate they will find the main heads of the Budget totalling Rs. 1,25,91,000. Of this total amount, I am not concerned with the reserved portion of Budget which deals with European and Anglo-Indian Education and for which demands have already been made by the Director of Public Instruction. Over and above Rs. 1,09,86,000, which I ask you to vote, there is a further non-voted amount of Rs. 5,24,000; but with that amount we are not immediately concerned. The Budget being mainly a repetition Budget, I do not think it is necessary to trouble the House with many details. The principal item of increase is under sub-head (*e*)—General, and at page 117 of the Civil Budget Estimates members will find a provision for Rs. 9,92,000 for the reorganisation of the services

below the Bengal Educational Service. It may be stated in this connection, that the orders of Government have been issued sanctioning the revision of pay of this service with effect from the 1st September, 1921, and that sufficient provision exists in the current year's Budget to meet the arrear pay of the officers affected. On the same page, there is an item of Rs. 32,000 which represents provision for revision of pay of ministerial establishments in accordance with the Salaries Commission's Report. There are some other items of apparent increase but these are mostly cases of mere adjustment. The total increase under all the heads including adjustments come up to Rs. 8,65,000. Against this there is a decrease to the extent of Rs. 1,63,000 making a net increase of Rs. 7,02,000 over the revised estimate of 1921-22. The decrease of Rs. 1,63,000 consists of the following items:—

	Rs.
(*a*) Government Arts Colleges	87,000
(*b*) Direct grants to non-Government Secondary Schools ...	31,000
(*c*) Grants to local bodies for secondary education	4,000
(*d*) Inspection	41,000

As regards (*a*), that is, Government Arts Colleges, Rs. 87,000—the decrease is not a real decrease at all. In the revised estimate for the current year provision was made for the payment of the arrear pay to all recently promoted Indian Educational and Bengal Educational Service officers. There will be no such special payment to be made next year, hence this reduction.

Items (*b*) and (*c*) represent certain temporary grants sanctioned during the year for more or less temporary causes. In view of the present financial situation and to the nature of the grants, it is not proposed to renew these grants this year in the present Budget.

Item (*d*) Inspection, Rs. 41,000—represented a provision for *ad interim* allowances to clerks of the Subordinate Educational Service and other services. The pay of these clerks will be revised after giving due weight to the recommendations of the Wordsworth and the McAlpin Committees' reports and the cost of such revision will be met from the lump provision for the purpose under the head "General." It is therefore not necessary to include this sum for these *ad interim* allowances in the next year's budget. There is an item of Rs. 61,000 included in the estimate under the head "Miscellaneous" to meet the proportionate share of this Presidency towards the expenses of the Hazaribagh Reformatory School, which is used by the boys of this Presidency as well.

The 18 amendments on the agenda paper indicate the doubts of some of the members of this Council with regard to certain demands. These amendments may be definitely grouped under three heads:—

(*a*) Those relating to the Universities of Calcutta and Dacca;

(*b*) Those relating to Direction and Inspection ; and

(*c*) Those under the head "Miscellaneous."

I trust a few explanatory words at this stage would perhaps help in shortening discussion and removing doubts of some of the members. I will take up the last item "Miscellaneous" first. If the members would turn to page 197 of the Civil Budget Estimate, they will find that with the exception of the grant of Rs. 1,77,000 under the detailed sub-head of "other items" there has been practically no increase in this year's Budget. The increase under this sub-head is mainly due, as I have already mentioned, to an item of Rs. 61,000 to meet the proportionate share of cost debitable to this presidency towards the expenses of the Hazaribagh Reformatory School which serves both the provinces.

I had an opportunity of discussing with Babu Surendra Nath Mallik and Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy with regard to the amendments standing in their names, and I believe I have succeeded in satisfying them. I may mention that perhaps the use of the word "Miscellaneous" led some of the members to put in amendments on this head. It is not unlikely that they thought that the charges being miscellaneous were not important, but I may assure them that the charges relate to various important demands and excepting the item referred to above, the "other items" relate to sanctioned old-standing grants and that none of them are unimportant.

With regard to amendments relating to "Direction and inspection" I wish to tell the House generally that in my view there are possibilities of reduction in the Inspection charges of the department but not in the Direction charges. I may further inform the House that in our reorganisation scheme relating to the Subordinate Educational Service, we have already taken certain steps which will go towards diminishing the expenses under the head "Inspection;" but it has to be remembered that the present system is a legacy of the past and changes must necessarily take some time. Further, the services of the officers of Government cannot be summarily dispensed with and the changes must be so introduced as not to affect the prospects of the officers, however humble. Keeping in view this aspect of the question, the department has under consideration certain schemes which, it is hoped, will ultimately prove to be not only less expensive but perhaps more beneficial to the province. With this assurance I hope the members of this House will be satisfied. There is, however, very little possibility of reducing the expenses under the head "Direction." The House should remember that the Department has to deal with all the educational activities of the province consisting of 47,000 and odd primary schools with more than 14,50,000 pupils; 1,562 Middle English schools with more than 1,30,000 pupils; 908 high schools with more than 2,14,000 pupils; 51 colleges with more than 24,000 pupils and two universities which require constant attention. It will, therefore, not be wise to attempt to reduce the cost of Direction. The cost of Direction is only about 1·2 per cent of the total amount of the disbursement of the department. If, however, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur presses his amendment, I shall go into the matter in greater

detail; but I trust, on my assurance that attempts will be made to reduce the cost of inspection, both he and Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder Ghose will withdraw their amendments.

Turning now to the grants proposed for the Calcutta and Dacca Universities, I desire to offer a few general observations. Both the grants are repetition grants. I believe some members who want to reduce the grant of the Dacca University have an idea that by doing so they can help the Calcutta University; others again perhaps desire to discuss the administration of the Calcutta University under the guise of reduction of the expenses of the Dacca University; then again there is an amendment directly dealing with the grants of the Calcutta University. With regard to the first point, I may tell this House that any reduction of the grant to the Dacca University will be of very little use to the Calcutta University. Suppose the grant of the Dacca University be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000 the whole of that amount will, under the Devolution Rules, which have the sanction of Parliament, go into the general coffers of the province. There is a very serious risk of two-thirds of this amount, namely, Rs. 1,33,000 and odd being swallowed up by the Reserved Departments. Of the remaining Rs. 66,000 and odd there is great risk of the other Transferred Departments coming in for their share. The result will perhaps be that out of the Rs. 66,000 or thereabouts, which is likely to remain in the Transferrd Department, my department may succeed in getting, say, Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000. For this amount again, there will be various demands not only by the two universities of Dacca and Calcutta but by the other activities of my department. Therefore by cutting down Rs. 2,00,000, the friends of the Calcutta University may succeed in hurting the Dacca University, but they are not likely to gain anything for the Calcutta University. But is it very necessary to follow this course for helping the Calcutta University? Have I not already informed the House that, in the supplementary Budget, I propose to give adequate grant to the Calcutta University?

Let me assure the House once more, if assurance were needed, that my attitude towards the Calcutta University is one of utmost sympathy, not merely sympathy in words but sympathy in deeds. If I had been severe in my remarks about the financial administration of the Calcutta University it was because I felt that it was my duty to deal firmly with the financial affairs of the Calcutta University. And I may assure the House that in future I propose to deal firmly with the financial affairs of the Calcutta University and that I shall continue to do so undeterred by criticism and may I add, personal abuse. When the din and bustle of the present controversy will be over, the Calcutta University and those who have worked for the success of that University will, I hope, be the first to thank me for my attitude in the matter. Sir, there has been some criticism about want of adequate financial support to the post-graduate studies of the Calcutta University and I feel I ought to say a few words with regard to this criticism.

The Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University in his recent Convocation speech has stated:—

> The custodian of the public funds though repeatdly approached have met the legitimate demands of the University with steady persistent refusal, etc.

I feel this remark can have no just application to my administration for the Calcutta University was made over to the local Government only a year before this and after last year's Budget was presented to Council.

Since then I had an opportunity of presenting only this Budget, which is a repetition budget and a deficit budget, and therefore no opportunity has been offered to me to deal with the question. I trust that in the near future when I present my supplementary Budget, I shall be in the happy position of refuting this criticism so far as it justly deserves refutation. But although this criticism does not and cannot justly touch me or my administration, yet I feel that this criticism, directed, as it apparently is, to the administration of the Calcutta University by the Government of India, is an unjust one. Because the Government of India at the very inception of the movement for the introduction of post-graduate studies made it absolutely clear that the Calcutta University should not expect any further grants for post-graduate education. Page 51, Volume II, Part I, of the Report of the Calcutta University Commission gives a short history of the position. On the 20th October, 1916, the Government of India, with the concurrence of the Government of Bengal, appointed a committee to investigate the question of post-graduate education. In the terms of reference to that committee (which is also quoted in the page already referred to) it is stated, *inter alia*, "the committee should frame its recommendations merely with a view to the best expenditure of existing funds and it should understand that further grants for post-graduate education cannot be expected in the near future." So the Government of India, when it appointed a committee on the basis of which post-graduate studies were introduced into the Calcutta University, made it abundantly clear that the Calcutta University was not to expect further grants for post-graduate education, and that Committee was presided over by the present Vice-Chancellor, and I am sure nobody knows the history of this movement better than he does. Now, when the post-graduate department was started on the explicit understanding given by the Government of India that it ought not to expect further grants in the near future, was it wise to expand the post-graduate studies beyond the financial capacity of the Calcutta University in the expectation of help from the Government of India? I repeat it was an unwise act on the part of those who were responsible for such expansion, no doubt, as I have said previously, they were actuated by the best of motives and by the enthusiasm of the moment. I repeat again, as I said on the last occasion, that let by-gones be by-gones. Let the University take the public into confidence in the

administration of its financial affairs and I consider the members of this House to be the best corporate representatives of the public of Bengal during their tenure of office as members of this Council and I am sure this House will look with every sympathy to the financial difficulties of the Calcutta University when I introduce the supplementary Budget. I do not think I need detain the House any longer at this stage. I now ask you to vote a grant of Rs. 1,09,86,000 to meet the cost of education of the children of all classes of people of this Presidency excluding the cost of education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians and of the excluded areas of Darjeeling and Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: In the absence of Babu Indu Bhushan Datta, I beg to move "that the demand of Rs. 1,41,000 for the Calcutta University be reduced by Rs. 50."

I had no intention of opposing any grant being demanded for the Calcutta University, but since very recently I have been forced to change my mind and hence, I request the hon'ble members of this Council to reduce the demand unless the Hon'ble Minister gives us an assurance that no portion of the sum will be spent without his knowledge and concurrence. The manner of conducting the affairs of the Calcutta University is above common intelligence. The authorities of the University have run it into bankruptcy but console themselves by drawing a very fallacious analogy with the financial position of the Government of Bengal. They regret that they have not got the power to make up the deficit by fresh taxation like the Government of Bengal. This analogy might have been highly appreciated by the academic body, but it is quite unintelligible to many of us, if not all. They should know that the financial crisis of the Government of Bengal was not its creation but it was the Meston award that placed this Presidency into a disadvantageous position. The Government of Bengal did not so administer its business to bring about a financial crisis, whereas the University authorities have so managed the University that a complete collapse has become imminent. The rates of fees realised from the candidates appearing at the various examinations have been increased to their utmost limits. Any further increase cannot be imagined now. This rate of increase is far greater in proportion to the taxes imposed by the Government within the last fifty years in this presidency. So this fling should not have been directed against the Government by the statutory body brought into existence by the Government. The University has rightly or wrongly expanded its scope beyond all limits, contemptuously disregarding all criticisms, however reasonable and responsible they might have been. If anybody is to be blamed it is the authorities of the University, the Senate and its Syndicate.

Another ground for reducing the demand is that the attitude taken up by the authorities of the University has become unpardonable. The

Minister in charge of the Education Department in his speech on the Budget debate gave ample indications of his sympathies for the Calcutta University though he made some just remarks on the management of its finances. A fellow of the University to gain a cheap notoriety, without hearing or reading the said speech which he is alleged to have read, sent in notices of motions to the Senate with the avowed object of lowering the position of the Hon'ble Minister in the estimation of the public. This sort of insubordination even on the part of an honorary officer should not be tolerated and I beg to request the Hon'ble Minister to direct the particular fellow to withdraw his motions. If he refuses to withdraw his motions, I ask the members of this Council to withhold the grant and to insist on the Hon'ble Minister to remove the irresponsible fellow from his seat in the University. It is for the prestige of the Government and the good name of the University such drastic measure has become necessary.

The procedure adopted by the University in connection with the above resolutions is most unique and unconstitutional. The day after the Hon'ble Minister delivered his speech and before his speech was published in the papers *in extenso* the particular member of the Senate thought fit to give notice of motions and the authorities too, directed to convene a special meeting for the consideration of the matter without even giving 12 days' notice. I do not wish to quote the proposed motions one of which cannot be properly called a resolution and the other is nothing but an attempt to pass a vote of censure against the Hon'ble Minister. The matter was considered very urgent and with precipitous haste, without assigning any reason of its urgency the matter was brought before the Senate for its consideration. In the Senate, however, an amendment—as in all sense it was amendment—was carried though the original motion was not at all moved.

In the Senate better sense prevailed and none spoke much on the merits of the resolutions but spoke on matters quite irrelevant to the subject. Certain dates were placed before the Senate in connection with the resolution passed in this Council for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the administration of the finances of the Calcutta University. The University——

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: Are all these matters relevant?

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: Is the member conscious of the fact that the motion was withdrawn?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I do not think all these matters are relevant.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Apart from the question of relevancy, I would, with your permission, appeal to my friend Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar not to go into these matters.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: After this appeal from the Hon'ble Minister I do not wish to say anything more.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I desire to associate myself with the remarks of Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar, of course, so far as he has made the remarks known to us by what he was speaking, and I do not know what else he wanted to say, I rise to support him not in what he says about a vote of censure on the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department or on the honour and prestige of the Calcutta University by moving for such a small reduction, but by way of protest against the manner in which the affairs of the University are being conducted. I, in common with the Hon'ble Minister, deem it a great privilege that I can claim the Calcutta University as my own *alma mater*, but all the same, I am extremely sorry that the affairs of the University are being conducted in such a manner as to arouse universal condemnation. Our list of grievances against the University is a fairly long one, but all previous delinquencies are fairly cast into the shade by the recent action of the University in persisting on fixing the date of the Calcutta University examinations during the month of the *Ramzan* in spite of the protests of the Muhammadan community. It was pointed out to the University that the month of *Ramzan* covers the whole of the month of May and the University examinations run on a little more than a week in May and therefore take up about ten days of the month of *Ramzan*. In spite of protests, the University declined to alter the dates. Recently, a petition, numerously signed by officials, non-officials and leading Muhammad gentlemen all over the Presidency, was submitted to the University and all that the University has thought fit to do is to change the hour of the examinations so as to commence in the early hours of the morning. This has made the situation worse. It is known that the Muhammadans who fast take two meals—one in the early hours of the evening and another in the early hours of the morning. It is impossible for a student who would be fasting to take his meal in the early hours of morning and attend examination with a full belly.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: Is he in order?

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I do not wish to go into details. As I have said, I wish to testify what I am saying that the University, in persisting to refuse our demands for making some concessions in the way we suggested, has deeply wounded the religious susceptibilities of the entire Moslem community.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: May I inquire when the month of *Ramzan* begins and when the examinations begin?

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: The University examinations begin early in April and run on to ten days in May and the month of *Ramzan* covers the whole of May; so that the University examinations take up nearly nine days of the month of *Ramzan*.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Only?

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: That is only! You do not fast and you do not know what it means. What we complained of was that during these days of the *Ramzan*, such important subject as English, Arabic, Persian, History and Chemistry have been fixed. We suggested that the important subjects should be finished before the *Ramzan* begins and comparatively unimportant subjects like Zoology, Botany, etc., in which there are fewer candidates, might be taken up during the *Ramzan* days. This prayer was rejected and, instead of listening to us, what the University did was to change the hours of the examination: but that has brought us no relief. I wish once more to testify that this decision of the University has deeply wounded our feelings and with these few words I wish to associate myself with the remarks of Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar by way of protest.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: There are many faults, many deficiencies in the University and its present Vice-Chancellor, but I must say that he is a man who has stood up as a bulwark of the independence of learning.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: This is absolutely irrelevant and out of order.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: It has been said here that the money granted to the University should be on condition that it should be spent in accordance with the wishes of the Minister and of this Council. I would not tolerate this position for a moment. Sir Asutosh Mukherji has stood up against the Government of India and the Government of Bengal for the maintenance of the liberty of the University, and as long as I am here, I shall always protest against curtailing its independence in any way. Anybody here who wishes to curtail the independence of the University is not a friend of India.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: Is he in order?

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: We are not going to press this to a division, so it is useless.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The University has got only Rs. 1,41,000. The resolution that this be reduced by Rs. 50 may be constitutional one, but this does not convey in any way the sense of this meeting that the garnt is utterly inadequate. This constitutional motion is absolutely inadmissible when the grant is so inadequate.

It has been said that the holding of examinations during the month of *Ramzan* is such a gross dereliction of duty on the part of the Vice-Chancellor that a vote of censure should be passed against him. For the last 50 years it has been so. Why is it that this year a vote of censure should be passed? The examination dates were never altered.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: They were altered ten times.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: Not for a whole month.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: No.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: You ask for the whole month. Under the circumstances Sir Asutosh Mukherji, who is not a particular friend of mine, but is a particular friend of the Muhammadans, has done the very best thing that he could have done. He has altered the hours of the examinations to morning when boys take their breakfast and a full breakfast.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: During the *Ramzan?*

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: You said so. Whatever that might be, is that a matter for which a vote of censure should be passed upon the Vice-Chancellor? I find that in every matter——

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: Nobody said that a vote of censure should be passed against the Vice-Chancellor.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: In every matter I find that religious questions are raised. I protest against such a course.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: After the assurance from the Hon'ble Minister that he would help the Calcutta University, as far as lay in his power, I thought I would not speak on the subject, but hearing the strong attitude taken by the representative of the dumb, driven cattle in this House—I mean Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq who said the other day that he was the representative of the dumb, driven cattle, I think it desirable to say a few words. He has taken a strong attitude against the Vice-Chancellor for not changing the examination dates which fall on certain days of the *Ramzan* month. I submit, Sir, that from time immemorial examinations have been held on the days on which they are proposed to be held during the present year. But why this cry now? As a result of the appeal of Muhammadan gentlemen we have got a fixed hour for prayers, but, Sir, how many Muhammadans go to pray at this time?

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: This is irrelevant.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: Then, Sir, why this strong attitude against the University? Certain members of the Council have been actuated by certain men to talk on this subject in strong languages in this Council. If we go into the history of these affairs we shall find that since June last some anonymous persons have been writing in the papers about matters relating to the Calcutta University hinting at the same time that the internal management of the University was not good. Since that we got

a motion from Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar about the appointment of a committee which was carried by a majority though opposed by the Hon'ble Minister in charge who, in his speech at the time of the Budget, said it was the work of one and the same person—a person who, we have every person to suspect, had fouled the very hands that had been feeding him. I do not think any honourable and respectable man should be guided and controlled and make any statement on the advice of such persons.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: I rise to support the motion that has been moved not for anything else but in the spirit in which the mover has done. To say the least of it, the Muhammadan community have no sympathy for the Calcutta University. By its behaviour in refusing to listen to the legitimate demands of the Muhammadan community, it has plainly shown that we are nowhere; as a matter of fact we have no place in it. We protested against the examinations being held on the *Ramzan* days, but beyond changing the hours of examination, the authorities of the University have remained silent. One of my friends has said that examinations have been held in *Ramzan* months for the last 50 years but you did not complain then, so why do you complain now? May I then ask, why do you cry for more Reforms since 50 years ago they were not, and you appeared to be content with your lot? Why do you now cry for more political rights and privileges since 50 years ago you had not these aspirations?

We were then backward and there was then not much education among us, Muhammadans. But now we have got education and find that we have been unjustly treated. There is already a strong Muhammadan feeling that they should boycott the Calcutta University unless it changed the date of examinations. The month of *Ramzan* is a holy month with the Muhammadans when they have to fast, and it is cruel to make our boys sit for examination without their meals. I associate myself entirely with what has fallen from Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq.

Mr. RAZAUR RAHMAN KHAN: I beg to associate myself with the remarks that have fallen from my friend Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq. Our list of grievances against the University is especially against the way in which its affairs are being conducted. We, the members of the Muhammadan community, cannot but enter the strongest protest against the manner in which they have shabbily treated us as regards the University examinations and I openly associate myself with all the remarks and statements that my esteemed friend Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq has given expression to.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I yield to none in my desire to see that my own *alma mater* gets her proper share from the public fund. I have no doubt that this resolution of my friend is not the outcome of any childish anger, but I am certain it is the result of deep sorrow. What I said in my budget speech I repeat again: let the good

old *alma mater*, I mean my University, have respect for the wishes of her grown-up children; let her take us into confidence; let her explain those circumstances for which explanations have been sought in the usual way and in the way they have been demanded, and we shall be most anxious to help her, for there is no one amongst us here who is more anxious to help the *alma mater* than the Hon'ble Minister. What are we here for if we, as custodian of public money, especially in the transferred departments, allow our University to be ruined so long as we remain in charge of the public money, but all the same the University must realise that liberty, as Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur calls it, is one thing and license is another. Certainly all liberty of action should be given to the University in matters academical. I am perfectly willing to concede that we have no right to go into the details so far as the general policy of education is concerned. But so long as we have got to pay we have right to command the tune. There is no question about that. We must see whether they are wasting our money or not; we have a right to see that; we have a right to inquire whether they are wasting money by spending it after chairs on subjects which is hardly useful to any one on this side of the grave. That is a point which we want to see. Whether the University is going to take up these subjects, which are of vital importance to us in our daily life and which give bread to our children, is a point which we have every right to see and we can and we must control that. I do not yield to anybody in my respect to the great man who controls the destiny of the University. I am absolutely cognisant of the fact that he has done much for the University for which we are indeed deeply grateful to him. But he is not above committing a mistake or being carried away too far through enthusiasm and I am not one of those who believe anybody to be infallible or for the matter of that even the highest man to be infallible, but all that we suggest is that there should be some inquiries as to the way in which the University is spending our money. Let us see that, let us be satisfied not in a spirit of absolute captiousness. These remarks are going round the country for a long time and everybody knows them. Chairs after chairs are being established there which, to my mind, ought not to be established in the present state of the finances. He has not got the finances of the Government of India behind his back now, but it is the poor finance of the Provincial Government that he has got behind him or to help him. So I think it is the result of sorrow and not of anger that we have raised this discussion by simply asking for a reduction.

I do not go into the troublesome questions which have been raised by some of my friends, least of all, do I like to go into the question of the *Ramzan* matter. I think an unfortunate matter has been raised to cloud the real issue. The question is not whether a particular wrong has been committed but the question is whether things should be done in a way that will unfortunately, compel us to lose our respect for the dear *alma*

mater and we ask our University to carefully consider the matter and take us into confidence and to let us know how the real matter stands. If they do so, I am sure that not only Rs. 1,40,000 but thrice as much will be given to them by the Hon'ble Minister at the time of the supplementary Budget. There can be no doubt about that.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I feel I am between cross-fires. I feel that the atmosphere of the House is electric with irrelevant issues although I must say that some of the issues, although irrelevant, are of the utmost importance on their own merits. Questions touching the religious susceptibilities of a great community to my mind, are questions of the utmost importance, although in the discussion of this particular matter they are irrelevant. My Muhammadan friends, when they consider this question cooly and calmly, will find that there are other ways far more effective ways, of getting their grievances removed; I am glad that my Muhammadan friends have brought their grievances to my notice; this however, is an academic matter. I do not think ordinarily I ought to interfere with the administration of the Calcutta University with regard to a purely academic matter, but I promise that I shall in future bring this aspect of the question to the notice of the Calcutta University.

With regard to one of the questions discussed, I desire to appeal to my friends, perhaps for the third time, and I hope and trust that there will be a similar appeal and responsive appeal made in that other body, the Senate of the Calcutta University, and that appeal is a plea for better relations between this House and the Senate of the Calcutta University. If two bodies like the Bengal Legislative Council and the Calcutta University—bodies in one of which, the duly elected representatives of the whole province and the other, where the best educated *alumni* of the University are gathered—if these two bodies go on quarelling over personal matters, and place personal squabbles and personal interest above public weal, I well nigh despair of success of representative government in this country. I do hope and trust that both these bodies will take due note of what ought to be their correct position. So far as I am concerned, I may assure the House that personal criticism or even personal abuse will not swerve me from my path of duty: and I trust that those in the other place who have given the best years of their lives in the cause of education would place public weal above personal dignity. I am sure my third appeal will not fall on deaf ears either here or in the other place.

Lastly, instead of entering into the merits of this unfortunate and controversial question, I appeal to Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar, who has taken it on himself on behalf of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta to move this amendment, to withdraw this motion; if he agrees to do so, I shall not further detain the Council.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: The motion that stands in my name runs thus:—

"That the demand for Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University be reduced by Rs. 4,00,000."

At the outset I wish to make it clear that I have not the slightest animus against the Dacca University. I personally belong to the Dacca Division and it is with a real pang that I raise my feeble voice for reducing the grant of Rs. 9,00,000 for that university. I may be wrong, but it seems to me that the authorities of the Dacca University are bent upon increasing their expenditure absolutely unmindful of the stringent financial condition of the Government, as well as of the needs of the overwhelming majority of students of Bengal, of all the districts, seeking after high college education in various departments under the Calcutta University. The Dacca University came into being in July last and Rs. 9,00,000 were allotted for the current financial year. This university operates in an area of a 5-mile radius and has students of about 724 only, although provision was made in a lavish scale for 1,500 students, and we are again asked to provide for another Rs. 9,00,000. I admire the sense of proportion of the officer or officers in charge even if we take into account the fact that this university is still in its crawling stage. While it is a patent fact that the Calcutta University, the *alma mater* of almost all the non-official members of this Council who have cared to cross the threshold of any university, is managed by an honorary Vice-Chancellor with a singleness of devotion which can hardly be equalled, far less excelled by anyone even earning the biggest salary of the land, this University with a jurisdiction of an area of a 5 mile radius cannot go on without a paid Vice-Chancellor with a salary of Rs. 4,000 a month and a palatial residence free of cost, a retinue of servants and double first class travelling allowance for frequent visits to Calcutta, sometimes in connection with Council debates here and occasionally to meet the Council members in party functions. Will my patriotic friends of Eastern Bengal tell me why one of their own men was not thought fit to adorn this post? Has their motherland become absolutely barren of good and capable men? Last year, there was an unhappy debate on this point and many members thought fit to withdraw the motion for reduction on the ground of displeasing the members of Eastern Bengal. If my colleagues are not unreasonable, I ask them to say what proportion of their sons, relatives and countrymen are students of the Calcutta University and what proportion are or are likely to be students of the Dacca University? Excepting the members of the town of Dacca, I ask each and all of the members of this Council—coming from Eastern Bengal, Mymensingh, Barisal, Faridpur, Noakhali,

Comilla, Chittagong—Hindus and Muhammadans alike—I ask each and all of them what expectations have they got regarding the potentiality and usefulness of this residential university of Dacca so far as they are concerned? If this university is meant solely for the benefit of only one town of Bengal, will it not be wise for them to act up to the wholesome maxim of "cut your coat according to your cloth" which I have heard them dinning into our ears in season and out of season?

One word more and I finish. It seems to be the idea of some members of this Council who are supposed to be the custodians of the public purse to effect retrenchment in every conceivable item and I find some names in the motions for reduction cropping up every now and then, but I miss the names of many of them here. Possibly they are satisfied with the present arrangement of the Dacca University which has got "only" 110 professors, readers, teachers, etc., for as many as "724" students! I anticipate the grounds of their justification, and I beg of them to remember those identical points and apply them with equal force when the question of the Calcutta University comes up, and I trust they will not fail to do justice to their conscience at that hour of their trial and responsibility and I look also to our popular Minister for Education to discharge his duties as impartially as possible irrespective of the criticism, fair or unfair, levelled against him, as he has just now promised.

The Calcutta University is not a charity boy. It is the only University for over 90 per cent. of the sons of Bengal, and the graduates emphatically resent the allotment of any grants after meeting the expenses of all other items. Theirs should be the first consideration and the students of Bengal seeking high education demand it as a right and not simply as a favour.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I move "that the demand of Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University, be reduced by Rs. 3,00,000."

I come from the district of Dacca, as also did the ancestors of the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, and have got great and living interest in it. I also represent the graduates of Dacca and am thus, in a sense, the representative of its University. Whatever I say should not, therefore, be considered as the outcome of my partiality for the Calcutta University. I would ask every member here to remember this and judge the matter impartially. The grant for the Calcutta University is Rs. 1,41,000 and for the Dacca University Rs. 9,00,000 are proposed to be given. Rupees 5,00,000 is the recurring grant allowed by the Government of India. It was never intended by the Government that more than that would be required. The extra Rs. 4,00,000 is unjustifiable. What is the Dacca University? It consists of two colleges: the Jagannath College and the Dacca College. Its teaching and its teachers, I say with perfect knowledge and impartial consideration, are not in any way

superior to those of the worst non-Government college in Calcutta and much inferior to those of the Presidency College, the Scottish Churches' College and the St. Xavier's College. The entire number of students including the Arabic and Persian classes is about 800 to Calcutta University's 30,000. We were promised a great University on the model of Oxford and Cambridge, but the University makers, unfortunately, did not know that the ancient Universities were voluntary associations of students who gathered for knowledge round great teachers. Learning is absolutely at a discount in this country. Everywhere, as under the régime of Sir Asutosh Mukherjee here, considerations other than real learning are important, with the result that not one book of any merit which has gone through a second edition has been produced by the honoured and the elect and the holders of places and chairs in the Universities. The Dacca University consists of the old second-rate professors of the Dacca Colleges, and Sir Asutosh Mukherjee has rightly complained of some of his post-graduate men at exorbitant salaries. Thus all the country knows that the only tangible purpose it has served is the increased salaries of the old professors. The teaching is practically the same in Dacca as in such second-rate residential colleges as Daulatpore. Only there are what are grandiloquently called the Islamic Studies which have attracted in the colleges from 50 to 100 Muhammadan boys. Dr. Abdulla Suhrawardy, undoubtedly a learned man among Muhammadans, who is intimately connected with Dacca, has condemned the University. Let my Muhammadan friends, who somehow, because the Government told them that this University is the compensation to them for the annulment of the partition, regard the University as their own, consider whether they derive any the least benefit from it. If 500 deserving Muhammadan boys had been granted Rs. 20 a month for prosecuting their studies in the existing colleges it would have been a great benefit to the Muhammadan community whose backwardness and fanaticism, I would not mention superstitions, are the great outstanding danger to the creation of the Indian nation. If the Dacca University could bring one or two great scientists and philosophers from Europe and America, men of such reputation that students from all countries would gather round them for knowledge, then all the money and more spent on it would be well-spent. Neither at Calcutta nor at Dacca does it seem to be known that the first thing all the western Universities do is to get some man eminent in the world of learning among its professors. Favouritism in Calcutta and Dacca and not want of money has prevented the good result. The Calcutta University is rightly considered not as a seat of learning but as a training-ground for lucrative avocations for its students and of advancement of its professors in degrees and emoluments. Until this state of things is improved and the Universities are carried on a higher ideal money should not be lavished on them. But when they are carried on for the " Advancement of Knowledge " as is the proud motto of my *alma mater*, no amount of money required for them can be too great.

I do not think that under the circumstances, the Dacca University is entitled to get more than Rs. 5,00,000 as its recurring grant. But I would give it Rs. 1,00,000 more for its scientific equipment in this year of our great financial difficulties. I may be told that there is no guarantee that the remaining Rs. 3,00,000 would go to the Calcutta University. I have this much of confidence in the good sense of our Ministers—that they would agree to give some relief to the hard-pressed Calcutta University. Notwithstanding the many defects, and notwithstanding the fact that the Syndicate of that University now practically consists of one man, and—unfortunately for him—his son, his son-in-law, and his young protégés, it has been doing splendid work, and that because of that one outstanding massive figure. Every one here would say with me of my *alma mater*—"With all thy faults, thou art surely beautiful, and I love thee still." We wish well to it, but my proposal is neither unfair nor unjust to the Dacca University to which I am prepared to give every facility for being useful and great.

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: I move "that the demand of Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

It is a matter of very great regret that we should to-day have been diverted into criticisms which are not necessary for the purpose of deciding the main issue of these resolutions. Personally, I shall not say a single word against the Dacca University. Bengal has so long had only one University. We know the population of Bengal is about the same as the population of England, and in England, I believe, there are about 13 first class universities, whereas up till recently we had only one University in Bengal. Therefore, I entirely support the establishment of a university at Dacca. A great deal of criticism has been directed against the expensive management of the Dacca University—a large amount of money has no doubt been spent on this University—but I do not desire to associate myself with those criticisms. It is undoubtedly necessary to spend a great deal of money for the purpose of establishing a big university, especially a residential university. But the measure that I propose will not in any way affect the scale of expenditure connected with the Dacca University, for the simple reason that it is only a temporary measure. I am asking that only for this year, this amount of Rs. 9,00,000 be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000. My reason is mainly this: I want a saving to be made of Rs. 2,00,000 which saving may be utilised for the purpose of financing the Calcutta University. We know that the finances of the Calcutta University are in a most deplorable condition. I shall not go into the reason for this state of affairs, but this is the state of affairs, and we know further that the resources of the Calcutta University are extremely limited. I am personally associated with the University, and I can tell the members of the Council that unless immediate assistance is afforded, it may be necessary to close down the University. Now I think that the Calcutta University has a claim as great as the

Dacca University to the assistance of the Government of Bengal. If the Government of Bengal is not in a position to assist the Calcutta University immediately and substantially, the University may have to close down. Everybody knows that the post-graduate department of the University is faced to-day with a deficit of Rs. 5,50,000, and that money has to be found. I do not desire to go into the cause of this deficit; as to whether the responsibility is to be borne entirely by the University authorities or shouldered partially by Government, but Rs. 5,50,000 had to be found. I am very grateful to the Hon'ble Minister who has said that in the supplementary Budget adequate assistance will be afforded to the Calcutta University, but I do not exactly know what he means by adequate assistance. If it is Rs. 2,50,000, it is not adequate assistance, and therefore for the purpose of assisting the Hon'ble Minister I desire to place another Rs. 2,00,000 at his disposal. I have been told that a reduction of the grant to the Dacca University will not in any way assist the Calcutta University, but that the money saved will be credited to the general fund. I have been told that two-thirds of the amount saved may be reappropriated for the reserved departments, but I am sure Mr. Mitter will see that the money is not appropriated by the reserved departments. I know perfectly well that if a saving of Rs. 2,00,000 is made in this manner, these Rs. 2,00,000 may be placed at the disposal of the Calcutta University. As I have said, this measure that I propose is only temporary; in other words, I will not repeat this demand next year. I want this assistance only for this year. I know perfectly well that the Government of Bengal are the trustees on behalf of the Dacca University, and that the Government of Bengal have to pay something like Rs. 60,00,000 to the Dacca University. I should be the last person to ask the Hon'ble Minister to divert this sum or any portion thereof for any other purpose. Every single penny must be paid to that University, but this year, I suggest, paying Rs. 7,00,000 only. It will no doubt cause some inconvenience to the Dacca University, but not much, and from that saving of Rs. 2,00,000 you can assist the Calcutta University. I think the proposal I have made is a very reasonable one and I want the members of this Council to remember that if adequate assistance is not forthcoming for the Calcutta University, the University may have to close down. One word more. We must remember that the advance that we have made, politically and socially, is due to a large extent to the Calcutta University. I therefore earnestly appeal to every member of this House to vote a reduction of the demand for the Dacca University by Rs. 2,00,000.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: After what has been said by the Hon'ble Minister, I do not think I would be justified in pressing this motion. I beg to withdraw it.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I move "that the demand of Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

The object of my motion is to draw attention, and not really to curtail the grant by Rs. 2,00,000. Last year perhaps I was the first speaker in this House to support the Dacca University. I still support it, and my idea is that a residential university is a great thing. I regret that in my younger days, when I was at college, the education that I received was not of the sort that it should have been, because we had no residential colleges in those days. The best we could get from our teachers we perhaps did get, but we failed to get that grit and moral character of our professors, eminent men like Charles, Tawney and others—which is open to boys in residential colleges to-day by coming in contact with their professors and teachers. There ought to be residential colleges where the boys can also get something to the character of their professors. As such, I am in favour of a residential college. Another reason is this: here it is that Hindu and Muhammadan boys live together, grow together, learn together and their minds are shaped together and that is a good augury for the future of India. I must say this regarding all communal schools, be they Hindu or Muhammadan, wherever they may be located, they are, to my mind, the greatest danger to our national cause; let Hindus and Muhammadans live, grow and learn together from their boyhood and there will be no more that division amongst us which is our greatest bane. I therefore welcome this University, as I have already welcomed it last year, and I am still perfectly willing to support it.

My idea in asking to reduce the grant is that there has already been waste and extravagance in this University to an extent to which, even the Calcutta University, I suppose, is not guilty of. We have already got professors there on very high pay; I find the Vice-Chancellor's pay is practically Rs. 5,200. It may be said there is need for this; I leave it out. There is the Law Professor, I believe on Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 1,800; notice should be taken of this; it is too much. Then the Chemistry Professor; his pay is Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 1,800; this is too much; notice should be taken of this too. Then the Physical Director; his pay is Rs. 1,250 to Rs. 1,500; by all means some reduction should be made here. These are the things I want to draw attention of my friend the Hon'ble Minister and the House. I find generally that the pay of the Professors is from Rs. 600 to Rs. 1,800, that of the readers from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,200. It is apparent therefore that there is much wanton waste and extravagance and plenty of room for reduction. We are going to give Rs. 9,00,000 to Dacca because we are committed to this by the Government of India; they promised to give Rs. 60,00,000, and we are bound to carry out that promise but that cannot be a ground for unnecessary waste. Another matter I should like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister is that this University is lacking very much in vocational studies; what we want now in India particularly is vocational study. There again, the University is committing the same mistake as the Calcutta University for such a long period of time; they are only

talking of Arts, Arts, Arts and nothing more. We want more vocational instruction; that is the primary thing in India or the University is doomed to a failure either to-day or to-morrow.

Therefore, you should introduce vocational subjects and thus allow our young men to earn their bread: that is the important matter. It is no good having a Vice-Chancellor from England and calling your professors "Provosts" and giving big names to your halls. Therefore, I think, the Hon'ble Minister should take notice of these things. What is a Provost? There is no Provost and nothing like it in Calcutta. All right, I do not object to big names, but I do object to waste of money. Let the thing be done in such a proper businesslike way that is likely to benefit our children in that part of the country. I think, therefore, that I should bring these things to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister and I am sure that he will take steps to remedy these if he has not already done so.

I forgot to say one thing and that is that there was some wanton waste of money last year. I hope the Hon'ble the Minister will listen to this matter. Last year—I mean after the *pujas*—there was a meeting held of the Law Committee of the Dacca University at Calcutta at an expenditure of Rs. 3,500 for bringing down the members here. Such wastes ought not to be permitted under any circumstances. I only say this to point out these wastes which are absolutely objectionable and should never be permitted.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: That the demand of Rs. 9,00,000 for grant to the Dacca University, be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

I do not move this amendment in a spiteful mood or with a feeling of jealousy towards the Dacca University. In the first place, I desire to state that we are all in cordial sympathy with the aspirations of our friends of Eastern Bengal to have a university of their own for the promotion of higher education on the right lines. At the same time, Sir, I think that having regard to the fact that the greater part of Eastern Bengal has been so long served by the Calcutta University—practically West Bengal is ruled by East Bengal,—because, after all, the culture and intellect of Bengal consists of the flower of East Bengal, and, I do not think that there is any reasonable ground to suppose that the Calcutta University has not been so long, and is not still, ministering to the educational wants of East Bengal. But, Sir, I look at this item of expenditure in our budget estimates from another point of view. I consider this item as a colossal extravagance, which is not justified by the present condition of the country. On the contrary, having regard to the fact that we are so much hard pressed for money, and further that there is a loud cry from one part of India to the other for vocational education, I wish this money had been spent even at Dacca for the creation of a University for imparting vocational education, whether in agriculture, technology or industries or in whatever

branches it is possible to impart education to the children of the soil. I am afraid, Sir, that there is rather a rank superfluity of higher education in this country, and it is time now to cry "halt." All endeavours should be made to divert the attention of the authorities to the promotion of vocational education in this country. If you look into the proceedings of this Council for the last 12 months, you will find that the Council has been flooded with resolutions urging the establishment of agricultural, technological and industrial schools: but what has been the result? These resolutions have been pigeon-holed in the Secretariat offices of the Government of Bengal. I believe, therefore, that, if this money which is now spent on the Dacca University had been spent for the promotion of industrial and vocational education, much greater good would have been done to the people not only of East Bengal but also of West Bengal. I think, Sir, that Dacca ought to be made the centre of agricultural or technological education. I do not know why students from West Bengal should not go to Dacca and join an institution there. Let Calcutta be made the centre of higher literary education and let Dacca be the centre of vocational education; and that ought to be the proper way of considering this question. The genesis of the Dacca University was the desire of placating the Muhammadan community of East Bengal and with that object the establishment of a University at Dacca was promised to them. The Governments of India and of Bengal promised that the Dacca University would within a short time be opened for the benefit of the Muhammadans of East Bengal: and they have saddled the Reformed Government with this expenditure, without giving them the requisite amount for the purpose of carrying on the administration of the Dacca University. It may be said that there was Rs. 50,00,000 or more given by the Government of India for the Dacca University. But I may point out that, in reply to a question put by me some time ago, the Hon'ble the Minister for Education stated that there was no longer that amount as that had been merged in the balances, which were made over to us. We all know about the Meston Award and that award made a clean sweep of all the Government of India grants. Under that award, we got certain balances on which we could draw at times on account of dire necessity. It is not clearly Rs. 9,00,000 that we were asked to vote for. As far as I can gather from the replies given to me by the Hon'ble the Minister, it is over Rs. 15,00,000 that we are spending over the Dacca University during the current year. In reply to my question, the Hon'ble the Minister——

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: What is the date of the reply?

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: The 17th of January of the current year. In reply to my question the Hon'ble the Minister said that the grant set apart for the Dacca University was merged in the balance; that is to say, that it is no longer earmarked for the Dacca University.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: May I have your permission, Sir, to ask the Rai Bahadur when I said that we are spending Rs. 15,00,000 as recurring expenditure for the Dacca University? It is not a fact.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I think, Sir, I would do well, instead of reciting from memory, to read to the Council, the answers that were given by the Hon'ble the Minister, so that he may refresh his memory. I asked "Whether it is a fact that there is an Imperial grant of over Rs. 60,00,000 in favour of the Dacca University" and the reply was: "The balance of the grant on the 31st March, 1921, was Rs. 51,36,000." I asked: "Whether it is a fact that the grant is merged in the Bengal balances," and the reply was: "It is so merged." I asked: "What amount has been given to the Dacca University out of this Imperial grant" and the reply was: "Expenditure from the grant up to the end of the financial year 1920-21 was Rs. 22,69,000."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I did not say that we were spending Rs 15,00,000 as recurring expenditure.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I am coming to it, if my Hon'ble friend will have patience a little longer. Then, he said that the Dacca University could not claim anything but the balance, if estimated, would amount to Rs. 51,36,000. Then I asked: "What is the total grant provided for the Dacca University in the current year's budget (including recurring and non-recurring expenditure and expenses for building work, etc.)" and the reply was: "Rs. 5,00,000 recurring; Rs. 4,00,000 non-recurring in Education budget; Rs. 6,02,700 for works in progress; Rs. 51,607 for new works in Public Works Department budget; total Rs 15,54,307.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Rupees 5,00,000 is recurring expenditure and it is the annual expenditure. Please do not misquote me.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I am not misquoting you. What I mean to say is this: that it appears from the figures I have quoted, that we are actually spending this year Rs. 15,50,000 for the Dacca University under all heads of expenditure; it does not matter whether recurring or non-recurring. Well, this is a considerable sum, having regard to the fact that, there are only 700 odd students and 110 professors. We have got there a Vice-Chancellor, drawing a salary of Rs. 52,800 per annum; whereas in the Calcutta University, it is known that in spite of the assaults that are made upon that mighty personage, the whole University is being administered and conducted by him free of charge up to 10 o'clock at night, when relieved from his own duties. We may differ from him; we may think that he has made a thoughtless expansion of higher education: that may be; but at the same time, it must be admitted that here is that mighty man who is devoting his

whole brain and his energy to the promotion of education in this country. If you care to go to the University at night, you will find that he is working there even sometimes till midnight for the promotion of education in this country. But for the University at Dacca, which has only a radius of 5 miles, we have to incur a heavy expenditure amounting this year to a total of Rs. 15,50,000, including both recurring and non-recurring. It seems, Sir, that our angle of vision has changed in the last 12 months. We are working with a heavy deficit and we are overburdened with taxes. I think that having regard to the popular demand for technical education, this money now spent for the reduplication of the Calcutta University at a place which is within a few hours' journey from Calcutta, should be spent for the promotion of technical and industrial education in this country. That is my object in moving this amendment to draw the particular attention of the Hon'ble the Minister to this matter. It will indeed be a glorious day for him and it will really be a monument of his administration, if he could only do that. But he may say: "Where is the money? There is no money available." I would not, however, ask him to take any drastic step. I do not say that he need not give anything to the Dacca University. Let the University work at Dacca, but let it be the centre of technical and vocational education—let the money be diverted to that purpose. If the Hon'ble the Minister does that, I am sure he will confer a lasting benefit upon his countrymen for which his name will be remembered for generations to come.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Have you finished? There are many members who desire to speak on this motion.

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur resumed his seat.

The following amendment, standing in the name of Babu Nirode Behary Mullick, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University, be reduced by Rs. 5.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I move "that the demand for Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University, be reduced by Re. 1."

In the course of my budget speech I dwelt on the attitude of the Hon'ble the Minister for Education towards the Dacca and Calcutta Universities. I complained of his preferential treatment of the Dacca University. I characterised his attitude towards Calcutta University as indifferent and unsympathetic. This was construed by the Hon'ble the Minister as an attack on him and he indulged in certain personalities. I ignored the personal element with supreme indifference. There was, however, a reference in his speech to a conversation he had with me; three-fourths of his report of that conversation is purely imaginary, more imaginary than the imaginary conversation recorded in the immortal pages of Walter Savage Landor.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I rise to a point of order.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: Shall I repeat what I have said? I have not used any unparliamentary language.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I have not heard what you have said. Will you please repeat it?

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: There was, however, a reference in his speech (I was attacked) to a conversation he had with me; three-fourths of his report of that conversation is purely imaginary, more imaginary——

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I rise to a point of order. Was the speech imaginary?

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Three-fourths of whose speech was imaginary?

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: Every word that I have said is perfectly true. There is one more misrepresentation. The Hon'ble Minister said that when I referred to the deficit of the Calcutta University I said, it was due to the non-co-operation movement. I said nothing of the kind. Be that as it may, the Hon'ble Minister has brought three serious charges against the Calcutta University, namely, that the deficit——

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I rise to a point of order. We are discussing the policy of the Dacca University and not of the Calcutta University.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I think you should confine your remarks to the policy adopted in regard to the Dacca University.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: Am I not entitled to discuss the general university policy?

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: He could have taken advantage of a previous motion and spoken on the subject.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: But, Sir, it is very important that I should be allowed to discuss the general university policy. If I discuss one university I must discuss the other.

Mr. S. R. DAS: Is the member in order in challenging the ruling of the Chair?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You can only discuss the policy that has been adopted with reference to the Dacca University.

Mr. F. A. LARMOUR: I rise to a point of order. Professor Mukherji continues to stand while you are addressing the House.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: Then, if that be your ruling——

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: That is the ruling.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I do not wish to say anything more because I would not be permitted to discuss the general university policy, but only the policy of one university. I thought that it was quite parliamentary (Cries of: "Order, order"). I bow to your ruling.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: You are bound to.

Professor Mukherji then resumed his seat.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I am entirely against all these amendments for reducing the grant for education ("Hear, hear"). I cannot understand why there should be any opposition whatsoever to a grant to the Dacca University ("Hear, hear"). I am a Calcutta man in the sense that I was educated in Calcutta; I hold a Calcutta degree, and I belong to the Calcutta University, being a member of the Senate of that University; but that does not prevent me from seeing another great University grow up in another part of the province. It is absolutely essential for purposes of education that such a University should grow. It has now been decided to start this University. I had, however, qualms of conscience when the matter was first broached. I had then an idea that it was probably a Muhammadan movement, a racial affair: I thought that there might be preferential treatment accorded to Muhammadans as against Hindus; that was what actuated my mind in those days. I have since then had an opportunity of going to Dacca and seeing for myself what is being done there; and I am convinced that good work is being done and is likely to be done; and if opportunities are offered, better work will be done ("Hear, hear"). They have got opportunities there; they have got brilliant teachers and a large scope for work; and there should not be any hindrance at all so far as the Dacca University is concerned.

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has said—"Why waste this money at Dacca? Why not consider the Calcutta University as the premier University and make the Dacca University a vocational University?" It is no use talking about these things in that way. So far as the Calcutta University is concerned, it has done brilliant work; there is no University in India which equals it, it has got high aims and there is no reason why it should not continue to do brilliant work. I am not discussing the financial question so far as the Calcutta University is concerned nor am I going into any matters which seem always to arouse high feeling. I do not know why we should not devote all available resources to have the Universities grow. We have no right to cut down the educational facilities which are being afforded to our young men. If it is a question of starving ourselves and feeding these institutions we should prefer to feed them and starve ourselves. We must recognise that position. So far as the Minister is concerned, I understand that he is prepared to

consider everything which is likely to conduce to the growth of these Universities. We know, the Universities Commission recommended that there should be universities spread all over the country, not one big institution controlling a very large number of colleges, but that colleges in the position of universities should be allowed to grow. It seems that many of us overlook that fact. It means money which, however, is not forthcoming. I do not think that any one who takes interest in education ought to come forward in this Council and say—" Oh! cut the grant down by a lakh; or even cut it down by Re. 1. " What is the meaning of such amendments? If it is meant merely for the purpose of having a discussion on the question, I can understand it. But so far as it concerns the disallowance of a grant, it has nothing to recommend it. So far as the Ministry is concerned, if it did mean and had led to a dissolution of the Ministry, I would perhaps welcome it for other purposes. But that is not the object of these amendments. I shall say nothing further. I have devoted many years in studying educational question, and have seen the working of similar institutions in India and elsewhere. I think it is a pity if we do not recognise the good that is being sought to be done for the purpose of educating our young men. There are hundreds, nay thousands of young men in the streets of Calcutta who would welcome opportunities for acquiring knowledge. Why not allow them such opportunities? I think that all these amendments ought to be withdrawn and none of them pressed to the vote (" Hear, hear ").

Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: It is with a feeling of deep regret that I stand to oppose all the amendments moved by my learned colleagues who are anxious to reduce the Dacca University grants of Rs. 9,00,000 which the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education, after due consideration of her claims and needs and wants, has been pleased to sanction this year also. For this the people of Eastern Bengal are deeply grateful to him. The Hon'ble Minister had very clearly explained in his elaborate speech during the Budget debate the reasons why the sum of Rs. 9,00,000 which was granted last year has also been allotted this year. After the convincing speech of the Hon'ble Minister, it is indeed a surprise to find that a group of not less than 10 leading gentlemen of culture and education enjoying enviable positions both in and out of this Council Chamber are anxious to reduce the grant by Rs. 4,00,000, Rs. 3,00,000 Rs. 2,00,000 and Rs. 1,00,000 and even by Rs. 5 and Re.1.

I am glad that most of the members have not pressed for the amendments standing in their name. It may be remembered that about Rs. 65,00,000 had been earmarked for the Dacca University long ago. It was only owing to the delay in starting the University that the amount could not be availed of. It may therefore be said without ado that the Government is morally bound to pay either in a lump sum or by instalments, the balance of that amount. My friends want to smother the newborn child in the cradle in its first year, by refusing adequate maintenance. I do not see any justification on the part of my friends to throw

their venom of anger on the Dacca University because sufficient grant has not been granted to the Calcutta University. The Hon'ble Minister has stated the reason for this and has given assurance that a sufficient amount will be sanctioned soon. I do not like to tax the patience of the Council by being unnecessarily eloquent on a matter, the importance of which is self-evident. I appeal to my learned friends in the name of education not to be so callous as to try to put out the torch of knowledge which has just been lighted in the Eastern capital of Dacca. I would not lag behind anyone in recording my vote in support of the Calcutta University when the question of giving it a grant comes up in due course. I trust my hon'ble friends will be pleased not to press their motions, as it would hamper the progress of education which is the crying need of the country.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: I belong to the town of Dacca and as such I oppose this amendment and other kindred amendments relating to the Dacca University. I may at the outset submit that the objection to the demand for the Dacca University is uncharitable and unreasonable and it will be evident if the previous history be borne in mind.

There was a grant of Rs. 65,00,000 by the Government of India to the Bengal Government for the Dacca University and this sum was earmarked for that purpose and that purpose alone. After the introduction of the Reforms last year, there was a heavy deficit, and this earmarked money was mixed up with the general revenues of our Government. The demand for the current year and the present demand are mere small fragments of the earmarked money, and if this earmarked money were not mixed up with the general revenues of the country, the Dacca University could legitimately and morally claim the whole of it or a fair portion of it when she was in absolute need of it.

When East Bengal was separated from West Bengal under the Partition scheme, large privileges were assured to the people of East Bengal, and amongst these privileges stands foremost the residential University at Dacca. If the Partition of Bengal had not been annulled, Dacca, besides being the permanent seat of Government, would have the privilege of a full-fledged university ere long. Well, she set at naught all these assurances and followed the lead and advice of West Bengal and entered an emphatic protest against the Partition. I put the question to the Council, Sir, is it fair, is it just, under the circumstances to oppose the demand for the Dacca University?

The Dacca University does not shut its doors against West Bengal or any portion of Bengal whatever. All classes of students are welcome to it irrespective of residence and I appeal to the members, specially those of West Bengal, to consider this question in the spirit in which it has been put forward by Sir Asutosh Chaudhuri; and I appeal to the members to be generous enough to vote for the entire grant of Rs. 9,00,000 and not to

reduce it and thereby stunt the growth of the Dacca University. With these words, I oppose all these amendments.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I rise to oppose the amendments. Let me say, at the outset, that I do not belong to Eastern Bengal but a place very near Calcutta, and so I think that neither any of my relations nor my children will ever have the opportunity to go to the Dacca University. We all know that there was a consistent demand by the people of Eastern Bengal that this university should be started and Government also promised them to found a university at Dacca and over and above this, there were the recommendations of the University Commission for founding universities in different places in India, and when this university has been founded, I think it is the incumbent duty of Government to provide sufficient funds for that university and make it a useful body. We know it very well that it is not a good policy to do things by halves. It has been urged by my friend Khan Bahadur Nawabzada Khwaja Muhammad Afzal that Rs. 55,00,000 were earmarked by the Government of India for this university, and I do not think it is at all necessary to consider that question since the Government has taken upon itself the duty of starting the university, it has become the duty of all of us to see that sufficient provision is made for that university, and this consideration alone should be sufficient for us to vote the money budgeted for by the Hon'ble Minister. It has been said that the amount provided for has been too much, but I think we should remember that the university has just been started and a good deal of capital expenditure is necessary to make it a useful technical education for that is the demand of the country at present, and I also think that in the beginning it will be necessary for the university authorities to spend a lot of money for the furnishing of the laboratories and other necessary spade work. I find that some criticisms have been made against this university, and one of them is that as body, and I hope that arrangements will be made to make provision for patriots we should not like to see this university ruled by a person who comes from a foreign country. We know from experience what we have got in Calcutta, and it is just now that my friends here in the Council were complaining against a person whom they kindly described as an autocrat because their grievances were never heard. Well, we hope that the authority of the Dacca University will not bear that description and we should not take shelter on the ground of patriotism and defeat the object of this university. To my mind, the gentleman who is at the helm of affairs at Dacca is a person with the best of records and let us hope that he will do everything he can for the sake of that university. The other thing that has been alleged is this: that the number of professors provided for is large in comparison with the number of students. There are some branches of education in the Calcutta University which provide a professor possibly for one or two students. So that is an objection which to my mind is of no importance, and the

greatest objection is that raised by my friend Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, for, according to him, the Dacca University will be *an obstacle in the way of the unity of Hindus and Muhammadans. If that be the fact, then certainly we should not like to have a university* like that, but to my mind, unity does not consist in having different *universities but it consists in interests. If A should do a particular good thing to B, B should not only return it but return it with double interest, and similarly if B inflicts a blow on A, A should have the capacity of returning it with compound interest.* If this sort of feeling exists in the country, perfect unity will be impossible, and I do not think that the Dacca University will stand in the way of unity.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I hope you will cut short your speech.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: As has been pointed out by Sir Asutosh Chaudhuri, this university is expected to do very good work, and I think that instead of hampering the cause of unity it will go to solidify it.

Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: I rise to oppose all the motions for reduction of the grant to the Dacca University mainly on the grounds stated by Sir Asutosh Chaudhuri and Rai Pyari Lal Doss Bahadur. It is a matter of very great regret to us that in this Council motions should be brought forward for a reduction of the grant to the Dacca University, which was defeated by a large majority last year, and I do not see any reason why the same performance should be repeated this year also. It does not also seem clear on what principle the various reductions have been suggested. Some have suggested Rs. 4,00,000, some Rs. 3,00,000, some Rs. 2,00,000 and some Rs. 1,00,000, while others have suggested Rs. 5 and even Re. 1. The last I take to be a vote of censure on a university which has not yet begun its work and which is yet in its infancy and has got to prove its usefulness, while the other motions are substantial motions and are suggested having regard to economy. Now, Sir, I happen to be a member of the Dacca University and a member of the Syndicate. I have attended meetings of the Syndicate and I have found on each occasion that most useful schemes on which we all of us are very keen, are going to be held up for no other reason than mere want of funds. Everyone knows that when a large project is undertaken, large expenses have got to be incurred, both of an initial and of a recurring character. It is the misfortune of the Dacca University that although it was promised so long ago as 1912, it took so long to come into being and when it was started it had to face a deficit all round, not only of the provincial Government but also of the Imperial Government. If the promise held out to have a university at Dacca in 1912 had been immediately carried out, the Dacca University would have had sufficient funds for initial schemes and also sufficient funds for carrying on important schemes of a recurring character. Now it has been pointed out by the Hon'ble Minister that even if a couple of lakhs are cut down from this grant, it will not go to benefit the Calcutta

University in the least, but will go to the provincial revenue and not unless the Minister can induce this Council to vote a supplementary grant for the Calcutta University. Can it be argued that if a couple of lakhs is cut down from this modest grant for the Dacca University, the Calcutta University is going to be benefited?

Then many of the members have said that the Dacca University should do this and that and take up vocational training and many other things, but these critics have not cared to remember that if you want to do certain things you must have sufficient funds, and the sum of Rs. 9,00,000, which is going to be given to the Dacca University, has been fixed after a careful consideration of all the necessities of that University. The Hon'ble Minister has been very circumspect, and so far as economy is concerned, I can inform this Council that there are, at the present moment, two committees sitting who have not yet finished their labours, and they have been asked to report on any possible means of bringing about a reduction of expenses of the Dacca University without impairing the efficiency. There are two committees already. If Rs. 9,00,000 is voted, it is not that the Rs. 9,00,000 will be misspent without any consideration for economy. There are two committees sitting and working and they will put forward schemes as to how this money will be spent, and to cut down the grant arbitrarily will put a block in the progress of the University.

I do not wish to take up the time of this Council any further, and with these words, I beg to oppose all the motions for reduction of the grant to the Dacca University.

Mr. H. A. STARK: I will not take up much time of this Council, but I do feel that I am compelled to oppose all the motions for reduction in the Budget of the Dacca University. It is extremely unfortunate that the juxtaposition of the Budget of the Calcutta University and the Dacca University should have produced in the minds of many members of the Council an inclination to compare the grants of the two Universities, whereas, as a matter of fact, the claims and requirements of each University ought, I think, to be considered on their individual merits. Why cannot we consider the Dacca University in detachment from the Calcutta University? Most of us here are Calcutta University men, and we have the highest regard for the Calcutta University. But I do not think that that ought to be our reason for not dealing here impartially with the needs of a sister University which claims our protection and also our fostering.

A great deal has been said about vocational education. It seems that, while some members consider that vocational education should be introduced in primary and rural schools, there are some who are for postponing the vocational education to the University stage. I always understood, and my impression has always been, that a University should not condescend to the lower standards of education; and surely it is not seriously suggested that the Dacca University should

really teach industries, agriculture and the like of a vocational type More than that: the Dacca University is already pledged to certain expenditure. She has entered into contracts with her professors and lecturers. These obligations cannot be repudiated. It would be a fine state of affairs if men engaged for five years or so are now turned out. We have got to find the money; otherwise they will go to court and get it. Instead of stinting the Dacca University because the Calcutta University cannot get as much money as we would like to give it, I maintain that our duty to the Dacca University is distinct from our duty to the Calcutta University. Much as we would like to fulfil our obligations to both, I fail to see that because we cannot fulfil our obligations to the Calcutta University, therefore, we should not fulfil them in the case of the Dacca University.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The question has been so well threshed out by the previous speakers that I do not propose to address the House at any length. On a previous occasion, I dealt with this subject at some length, but I regret to find that those who spoke against the grant to the Dacca University did not touch the points I then mentioned. The first point to which I would draw the attention of the House is this: that the Rs. 9,00,000 consists of Rs. 5,00,000 recurring and Rs. 4,00,000 capital. I mentioned on a previous occasion, and I venture to repeat it now, as those members who opposed this grant have apparently forgotten the point, that the Rs. 5,00,000 recurring expenditure is for a residential university which includes teaching work in three halls, and, therefore, the recurring grant, I suggest, is not too much. As regards the capital grant, I submit that it is a new University. I told the Council on the last occasion that it requires money for laboratories, for workshops, buildings, and other necessities. Therefore, I submit that Rs. 4,00,000 also is not too much.

My friend Babu Surendra Nath Mallik has requested me to inquire into certain charges of extravagance of the Dacca University and he has appealed to me that I should look to the financial affairs of the Dacca University in the same manner as I propose to look to those of the Calcutta University. I can assure him that so far as it lies in my power I shall not be failing in my duty with regard to either of the Universities. But perhaps Babu Surendra Nath Mallik's informant has misinformed him on certain points. He has stated, for example, that the salary of the Professor of Chemistry is Rs. 1,200—Rs. 1,800. I find from a paper, placed in my hands that the salary is Rs. 800, and the gentleman appointed is a brilliant D.Sc. of the London University who has done original work in the subject. Babu Surendra Nath Mallik has also stated that the salary of the Professor of Law is Rs. 1,500—Rs. 1,800. I find that the salary is Rs. 1,000 and free quarters, and that the salary includes not only work for the chair of

Law but also for his duties as Provost of the Juggernath Hall. However I shall be very happy to place materials before him if he so desires and to go into these matters more fully and do all I can to cut down extravagance if any extravagance really exists.

Now there is another aspect of the question which must not be ignored. Before the Reforms, the tax-payers' money was spent for the Dacca University. After the introduction of the Reforms, this very Council last year voted Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University. Surely this House does not desire to waste all this money by refusing or curtailing the proposed grants to the Dacca University. If you pass these grants, I assure you that you will on the whole get your money's worth.

I am sorry to notice that a good deal of the time of this House was taken up upon a question of some irrelevance, namely, a comparison of the respective grants to the Calcutta and the Dacca Universities. I maintain that we should deal with each of these Universities on its own merits. Therefore, I do not propose to answer any of the criticisms made on a comparative basis. I do not think I need take up the time of the Council any longer. I hope that all these amendments will be withdrawn.

The following amendment standing in the name of Dr. Jatindra Nath Moitra was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University, be reduced by Rs. 4,00,000."

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: As regards my amendment I find that my Muhammadan friends are very keen on the Dacca University, but when they will find that the establishment of the Dacca University has been an unwise policy, I will put it forward again. For the present I withdraw it.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The amendments, standing in the names of Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur and Professor S. C. Mukherji, were then put and lost.

The following amendment was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,58,000 on account of 'Direction,' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I move" that the demand for Rs. 11,44,000 under heading '31—I.—Direction and Inspection' be reduced by Rs. 100."

This is a motion simply to draw the attention of Government to the fact that the cost of Inspection and Direction is out of proportion to the cost actually incurred in the actual imparting of instruction. The Hon'ble Minister for Education in his opening speech has already

admitted the justice of this resolution, and he has promised that he will try his best to reduce the expenditure on inspection. That being so, my object has been served and I need not say anything more on this motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

As the members were absent, the following amendment was deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur and Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,77,000 under the heading '31I.—Education—Miscellaneous—other items' be reduced to Rs. 75,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move "that the demand of Rs. 4,56,000 for Education (Transferred)—Miscellaneous—'31I' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Of the several items which go to make up this large sum of the adversity Budget many can hardly be supported—may tolerated. Even if there be some justification for a few of them I think these could have been better made to wait till we could deal with a prosperity Budget.

I am sure everyone in this Council has heard about the feeling in the country concerning the Advisory Committee for Indian students. The Secretary of State after all has appointed a committee to suggest means how to organise them. The old committees are very unpopular and the students fight shy of them. These branches in the country are not doing any good to anybody besides a few favourite professors of some Government colleges who are in receipt of honorarium for practically doing nothing. The little duties they still have left to them can be very well carried on by the Principals of those very colleges *ex-officio* and the sum can be saved altogether as Principals of Colleges do not concern themselves with teaching classes.

Another item under this head is the sum of Rs. 19,880 as grant to the Indian Society of Oriental Art. I fail to see how it has come under education. I confess I do not know how much about the internal working of this society—except when we hear of their presentations of jewelled images to high personages. There is another thing we must remember. The Post-graduate Department of the Calcutta University has created during the year a chair for Oriental Art to which a distinguished Oriental Artist has been appointed. As the financial stability of this chair is secured through the Khaira Endowment the continuity of it can in no case be jeopardised by the threatening bankruptcy of the University. I therefore feel that the Council should refuse this special grant at least for the bad financial year of 1922-23.

I also want to draw the attention of the Council to the sum of Rs. 5,000 budgeted as "Her Excellency's special grant." There is one good thing about this non-descript grant that though the sum was shown in the original Budget for 1921-22, it disappeared from the revised budget for that year (1921-22). It is still more satisfying for

my purpose that though the sum was budgeted in 1920-21, in actual expenditure it was not shown. Moreover, in the accounts for 1919-20, nothing is shown as spent under this head. After the recital of all the past history, I hope the Council will feel no hesitation in refusing to place any figure against this item in the budget estimate for 1922-23.

I would strongly request the Council to refuse the sum of Rs 40,000 estimated for the Board of Secondary and Intermediate Education, Dacca. I do not know if my friends from Dacca will object to this, but I can assure them that I have not been actuated by any motives of animosity or ill-feeling towards Dacca. This Board has been interposed between the Dacca University and the High Schools of the Dacca Division to see what qualifications the candidates for the Dacca University should possess. One retired principal and another professor have been appointed as the President and the Secretary of this Board with big salaries in addition to their pension (I understand both of them are retired pensioners). As the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar of the Dacca University are the fittest persons to say what should be the qualifications of the candidates who want to come to their University and as the Council has already had plenty of evidence that these two officers are not over-burdened in any way with their duties, I believe the best solution the Education Department can effect of the difficulty is to employ the Vice-Chancellor as *ex-officio* President of the Secondary Board and the Registrar as *ex-officio* Secretary of the Board; and thus save the sum of Rs. 40,000 and relieve the pensioned officers from their new duties.

I also would request the Council to refuse the sum of Rs. 17,000 budgeted for Female Teachers' house-to-house visitation. I do not know what purpose they serve and I do not entertain a very high opinion of this body. The system has been long enough tried to be given up. The system cannot produce any appreciable good or show progress and should be abandoned without further delay.

I want to say a word also about the sum budgeted for allowances to medical officers for attending boarding hostels, etc. These hostels are attached to colleges, and it is well known that college students, at least in most of the private colleges, pay a small fee for medical attendance along with their tuition fees and some of the colleges make some handsome profit out of the fee levied. I do not think the Education Department should go on increasing its burden by providing for medical expenses for students going in for higher education. So I would request the Council to discontinue this sum of Rs. 20,000 also from the demand.

I have got only a word to say more about another head under "Miscellaneous." It is a demand for Rs. 1,77,000 for "other items." I would like to compare it with a blank cheque for a very large amount and the most curious thing is that the amount demanded for this blank

cheque is going on increasing from year to year. The actuals for 1920-21 under this head were Rs. 55,816. In the revised estimate for 1920-21, it came up to Rs. 72,000 and in the budget estimate for 1921-22, the figure is Rs. 1,00,000 but in this year of very great financial stringency this item has swelled to Rs. 1,77,000.

I should have requested the Council to cut it down nearer to the actuals, Rs. 55,816 for 1920-21 and revised estimate Rs. 72,000 for the same year. But instead, I am asking the Council to reduce this demand under the heading of "other items" only by Rs. 93,120, thus leaving a very big sum, *i.e.*, Rs. 84,120 for this blank cheque item.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: I regret that Dr. Haridhan Dutt has thought fit to object to the sum that has been provided in the Budget, as grant to the Indian Society of Oriental Art. Among the things that we desire to see preserved and encouraged are our old art ideals,—the old ideals in their true spirit.

With the advent of modern systems of education in India, these art ideals were being gradually lost sight of. There are many of us here who feel that it is necessary that these art ideals should be revived and the spirit that permeated them should again animate the people of the country and not only the spirit that now permeates and animates the activities of our people. The achievements of India in the field of Art in the past as manifested in the remnants now in existence excite the admiration of the world. In the field of architecture we have the *Taj* and many other buildings in the field of paintings we have the Ajanta frescoes, and in various other departments we have manifestations of the old artistic spirit which we can hardly afford to lose. This Society of Oriental Art that has been recently established is seeking to create a school which, if run on proper lines, will re-generate what previously existed and is dying.

The grant as shown in the Budget is a very small one. In fact, a much larger grant should have been allowed to this society which is doing excellent work as will appear from the annual exhibition of this society. I trust the Council will pass this grant.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I move "that the demand of Rs. 4,56,000 for Education (Transferred) (Detailed Account No. 31—1), be reduced by Rs. 56,000."

With regard to what my esteemed friend, Dr. Haridhan Dutt has said, I think it is more a question of policy than anything else. The important question that arises from his views is that we should not spend money on secondary education before we have completed our duty with regard to primary education. That is, I believe, his principal object in bringing his resolution before the House, and to that extent I think it is a question of policy. But this question should be better discussed by means of a resolution or a deputation to the Hon'ble

Minister because it cannot be conveniently discussed in considering the question of a particular grant. However, I am of his opinion that primary education which is the first duty of the State should not suffer because we have got to pay for secondary education.

There are some items in this demand (31—1) to which there may be some objections. My esteemed friend has spoken of allowances to medical officer for attending boarding hostels and messes, etc., and other educational institutions. He is a doctor and he knows very well whether it is necessary or not. I do not think there is much in it, but I do not want to quarrel with him in this respect. Then comes the grant to the Secondary and Intermediate Board of Education which is a fairly large sum; but the Board has already been started and work is in progress. My friend suggests that the Dacca University might be asked to take up this work whereby a considerable reduction may be effected. I think a project like this may commend itself to the consideration of our Hon'ble Minister.

Then comes the grant to Female teachers for house-to-house visitation. I do not think it is necessary for anybody to make visitations on anybody. Indeed, why should anybody go on visitation on anybody? I do not think that even angels, not to say female teachers, have any right to make any visitation on anybody. This is an item to which I strongly object.

As regards the grant to the Society of Oriental Art over which my friend, Babu Jatindra Nath Basu was in raptures, not only do I object to it, but I am of opinion that the manner in which the Society's pictures are painted tends to vitiate the artistic taste of our people. The painters belonging to this society paint fingers bigger than hands and nails bigger than fingers and eyes half shut just like those of confirmed opium-eaters—it is simply ridiculous and vitiates the taste of our people. Because Sir John Woodroffe or other great men have said that these pictures are beautiful, they must be nice things! As soon as one sees these pictures one is astounded and asks: "What is this? Is this oriental art? Or is it any art at all?" I strongly object to this grant. Let them paint better pictures and not spread such ridiculous ideas like that about Orental Art and then we would gladly pay.

Then there is another item—Her Excellency's Special Grant—Rs. 5,000. It is not a large sum and I do not think it should be refused. It is only Rs. 5,000. It is quite likely that Her Excellency while presiding over prize distribution ceremonies should promise to give small sums by way of donation and when Her Excellency makes such promises, we should respect them. It is trifling sum and we should not grudge this matter. In fact we need not consider this item at all.

There is another item—it is a paradox in which the part is greater than the whole. This is the item of Rs. 1,77,000 under the head "Miscellaneous and other items." Last year it was much less but this

year it has been put down to Rs. 1,77,000. You could take us into your confidence when you framed this estimate but you did not; certainly it is not a fair way to treat us! Indeed it is a very large sum which has been put under this item. I suppose it includes other items too. Why do you not put faith in us? We are not people to object to any and every grant. Show us that your demand is reasonable and we will always pass it. This heavy sum can easily bear a reduction. It appears that under this head the actuals for 1920-21 were Rs. 55,000; the budget estimate for 1921-22 was Rs. 1,00,000 and the revised estimate was Rs. 1,56,000, but this year it has gone up to Rs. 1,77,000. I am afraid it is going to be a very heavy sum and I think the whole grant can be easily reduced by Rs. 56,000.

I do not know what these "other items" are. I am told that there is an item of Rs. 61,000 which we are called upon to pay to the Bihar Government as our share of the expenses for the boys of the Reformatory School at Hazaribagh. If that is so, we are certainly bound to pay this sum. It is a good and noble institution and perhaps one of the best that the British people have brought over to India. Barring this amount there is still a very large sum to be accounted for out of this item of Rs. 1,77,000. Therefore, I think, as I have already said in my speech on the budget statement, that if language was intended to conceal the human mind, the Budget was intended to conceal the policy of the Government. Why do not the Government consult us before they launch on particular schemes? We are all reasonable men: you can easily take us into your confidence. Some of these items can very well be cut down. There are matters like these the details of which it is not convenient to discuss in a large assembly like this. These are all demands for educational matters and I never like to touch them if I can help. It is a sacred trust. Do not cut a pice out of educational matters. If satisfactory explanations of Government proposals were forthcoming, we would have withdrawn all our motions for reduction I am of opinion that there is room for inquiry and explanation which I hope the Hon'ble Minister will be pleased to furnish us with.

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: I have to make but one observation on this amendment moved by my esteemed colleague, Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur. I should say that I fail to understand why he wants to reduce the grant to the Society of Oriental Art.

This institution is one of the few of which every Indian should be reasonably proud. It has as its only aim, the revival and the regeneration of India's past glory in arts, as represented by the immortal works of our master-minds at Ajanta and elsewhere. The work is beginning to find international recognition and it is extremely disappointing that my friend, an Indian, wants to handicap its activities by refusing the much-needed help at this stage.

I cannot too strongly insist on the fact that the institution deserves all possible co-operation and consideration and so I oppose this amendment for reduction.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I wish to say a very few words with regard to this amendment.

I do not quite understand the objection made by Babu Surendra Nath Mallik. I am sorry he is not here, for I should have liked to ask him what his standard of finger measurements was. There are matters which sometimes require cultivation, and art culture is not a matter of instincts; one has to acquire it by careful training, and that is what the Society of Oriental Art is endeavouring to do. It has struck Mr. Mallik that the fingers which the painters of this society paint are longer than their hands and the nails longer than the fingers and that their eyes in pictures are always half shut, but I do not know what he would have said had he seen a Cubist horse. The Oriental Society's portraits are perhaps less open to criticism than what Cubist painters produce. Whatever that may be, the society is endeavouring to educate our people in matters of art, and they ought to be encouraged. As regards their methods of education, I do not know very much, but I know that instructive lectures are delivered there with regard to art and their progress has made a name for them in different parts of the world. Last night I had the honour of listening to a lecture there by Dr. Stella Kremerisch. I should like to see the Calcutta University produce a man to deliver a lecture like that. I do not think we have a single individual like that in the whole of India who could deal with the subject in the way this young lady did. I learnt from her many things which came to me as absolutely new, and I am sure Mr. Mallik would have appreciated the educative value of that lecture if he had heard her. I am sorry he was not there.

I support this grant and do not think there should be any objection to it.

Mr. F. A. LARMOUR: I am glad to say that previous speakers have said much of what I intended to say. Speaking on behalf of the Society of Oriental Art, as one of the founders thereof and one who has the honour of having been one of its Vice-Presidents, I do not think I shall be wrong if I were to go into the history of the Society and tell the members the immense amount of good that it has done but this would take too long a time. I have done a great deal of travelling over a considerable part of India and I have seen Oriental art at its best in many places. I would ask how many of the members here have seen the magnificent temples of Saranath, Halabede, Puri and Bhubaneswar. There are many other places in Southern India where beautiful Oriental art can be seen. In Rajputana, particularly, there are paintings from which European art can learn much. Unfortunately, for want of support and sympathy that money alone can give, these arts have been lost to us to a great extent. In Rajputana you can see the very finest art of over four, five or six

hundred years ago. Nothing that we have here can touch the magnificent pictures produced in Rajputana, Northern India and Persia and it is simply the wish and aim of this Society to encourage its young students, even if they at present produce figures with fingers longer than hands and nails larger than fingers, and semi-closed eyes seeming to ask for sympathetic treatment at the hands of the purchasers of those pictures. I think we ought to encourage Oriental art in every way. Would anybody deprecate a society encouraging the weaving of cloth and would anybody oppose us if we started small factories for teaching the manufactures of Dacca muslin and other fabrics which are famous all over the world? I do not doubt but that even my esteemed friend Mr. Mallik would help us in a matter of this kind. The Society of Oriental Art, although its present activities find expression only in pictures and bronzes, is quite open to the assistance of sympathetic Indians to extend its usefulness in other spheres. In these circumstances, I would support the moderate grant made in the Budget for the Indian Society of Oriental Art.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: I rise to oppose the motion specially the item relating to the Dacca Intermediate Board. The mover suggests that the grant for the Board should be refused. He seems to think that the Board is a mere surplusage and it should be done away with. I must say at once that he is grievously mistaken in thinking so. I may say, as a member of the Board, without any fear of contradiction, that very heavy and responsible duties have been placed upon the Board. The Board prescribes the courses of study for all students of the high schools up to the Intermediate standard, appoints examiners and regulates the modes of examination and, in short, it is concerned with, and it controls, all matters relating to the education of students of the high schools in Dacca. If the Board be abolished—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I have never suggested the abolition of the Board.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: If the Board be abolished it would mean that the education of the students of the high schools in Dacca would be shut up and I am quite sure no sincere well-wisher of the country would endorse such a regretable state of things. I may say here that the University Commission has recommended the Intermediate Board.

The mover has further said that the President of the Board is a Government pensioner. It is not so. Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Chatterjee, a veteran educationist, is the President of the Board; he was formerly the Principal of the Jagannath College, but the college having become a part and parcel of the Dacca University, he has been appointed President of the Board.

With these remarks, I oppose the motion.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I think I should be failing in my duty if I did not say a few words on this motion. The first item which has been objected to is the allowances to the Advisory Committee for Indian students. I know about this thing probably more than any one else here. The only *raison de être* of this Committee seems to be to dissuade the boys of the Association for the Advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education of Indians from going abroad. That Association has been sending 30 to 40 students every year to qualify themselves in techincal and industrial subjects. They are often told that there is no room in Glasgow, in Edinburgh or for the matter of that, in any University at all, and that unless they can spend Rs. 500 or 600 a month, they should not go. They have dissuaded many such boys from going, and year before last they issued a *communiqué* that there was no room for them in any of the foreign universities. But in spite of that my boys did go and everyone of them got a seat either in the Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham or Glasgow University. Sir, the existence of such a committee is dangerous.

The next item objected to is the allowance to medical officers for attending to boarding hostel, *viz.*, Rs. 20,000. I find the objection to be very unreasonable. The boys in the hostels do require medical attendance and the sum allotted for this purpose by Government is a very reasonable and humane act and I am very sorry that my friend Dr. Dutt has raised objections to this item.

The next amount budgeted is Rs. 40,00,000 for the Board of Secondary and Intermediate Education, Dacca. To my mind this Board exists only for the few schools in the town of Dacca. I know how many schools there are. I am afraid that this Board for the town of Dacca has been created a little too early. It might have waited for some time.

The next thing budgeted is for female teachers' house-to-house visitation. I am sorry that my friend Babu Surendra Nath Mallik got hold of the word "visitation." Of course, this expression is undesirable and it is wrong English, but all of us are guilty of using bad English. What was meant was Zenana Teachers' allowance, and for that purpose only Rs. 17,000 is a very poor amount and I would ask the Hon'ble Education Minister to take particular care of this branch of education and raise the amount from Rs. 17,000 to Rs. 1,70,000.

Then, regarding the other thing, I must say a word about the grant to the Indian Society of Oriental Art. I am one of those men who have repeatedly told this Council here and also to the public outside that I do not recognise racial or local standards for Science, Mathematics, Philosophy and even for Art. There is only one standard of beauty. I know in England, pictures and figures supposed to be Indian are purchased because of their ugliness. The ugliest pictures and figures are the most in request, the uglier the better. If the Society of Oriental Art exists for that purpose, I certainly think it to be a degradation.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: At this fag-end of the day, I do not propose to tire the House by going into details. The first point I desire to mention is this. I have already explained in my opening speech (perhaps my friend Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was not here when I made that speech) that the main additional item is the item of Rs. 61,000 for the Hazaribagh Reformatory School. The other items are all old grants; for example, if the House will look into the civil budget estimate they will find that the first item is "Allowance to the advisory committee for Indian students." This is an old grant; the actuals of 1920-21 was Rs. 4,059, while the budget estimate was Rs. 5,000. This year, there is a provision of Rs. 5,000. The second item is based on the actuals of 1921-22, *viz.*, Rs. 21,780, while the budget estimate was for Rs. 20,000. These, too, are old grants excepting the item of Rs. 61,000 for the Hazaribagh Reformatory School. The House will recognise that when a grant is paid to an educational institution or an institution like the Society of Oriental Art—about which opinion seems to be very sharply divided in this House—and if it is suddenly informed that its grant will be withdrawn from next year the institution is likely to collapse. All these are old grants which were examined and passed by the Council without opposition for years and are we now to set out suddenly for reduction, and if so, by what method? Even at this moment Dr. Haridhan Dutt has not explained to me or to the Council what items he will select to make up his Rs. 2,00,000, but perhaps he reasoned that as the item is described "miscellaneous" it must be unimportant, and being unimportant in this year of stringency let us have a lump sum cut. Is that a right way of managing things? If he had any doubts about any particular point he might have inquired into the matter. For instance, my friend Babu Surendra Nath Mallik inquired into the matter and got all the information he needed. My friend Dr. Haridhan Dutt did not do me the courtesy of listening to my opening speech and thus he went on talking on each item going to make up the total of Rs. 4,50,000 and he suggested a reduction of Rs. 2 lakhs. That, I submit, is not a businesslike way of doing things.

The first item is for allowance to the advisory committee for Indian students. This is not the advisory committee which the Rai Bahadur had in view, namely, the committee which was appointed in England and was presided over by Lord Lytton, which the Legislative Assembly turned down. There are two advisory committees in this province, one in Calcutta and the other in Dacca. The business of these committees is to give information to the students about the universities abroad and to put them into touch with those universities and so on.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: Who is the Rai Bahadur to whom you refer?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I refer to Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur and not to Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur. I am

sorry I was not specific about reference to Dr. Dutt as the Rai Bahadur I had in view.

These two committees have been doing useful work for years and I see no reason why we should suddenly get rid of them.

With regard to the second item, I am sure the majority of the House will not appreciate his opinion, but on the contrary, they will hold that the allowance to medical officers for attending boardings, hostels and other educational institutions is a very necessary provision.

The third item—the Board of Secondary and Intermediate Education in Dacca—I explained in my general discussion. We have not introduced it as a matter of choice. Since the Dacca University Act was passed no other educational institution, whether it be the Calcutta University or any other body, could hold any examination within the area of the Dacca University. The University Commission's report recommended the establishment of such a board at Dacca and a board had to be established, and we have no option in the matter. The provision was included in the Budget that was passed last year and Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, if he wanted to make any suggestions, might have suggested them 12 months earlier.

As regards the female teachers' house-to-house visitation, I admit I do not at all like the expression. I understand this is the old established way of describing this activity. These words were in use long before I and Mr. Wordsworth came to office. If the objection of the House is to the way of describing the thing, I promise to look into the matter, but to be serious, it is a very important educational activity. It is really zenana teaching and I quite agree with Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur that if I had money I should spend much more than what I am doing at present.

I do not think I need take the House through all these items, but I would refer to the item of Her Excellency's special grant of Rs. 5,000. I may tell the House that this consists of various small grants distributed to many girls' schools all over the province by Her Excellency. For example, in two divisions—the Presidency and Burdwan—there are 19 schools receiving altogether Rs. 2,000. Applications are forwarded and recommended by the Inspectors of Schools and Her Excellency decides them on the advice of the officers of the Department. As many speakers have already said that they do not want to cut down this item, I need not say anything more about it.

I have already explained that all these grants are old grants with the exception of Rs. 61,000 for the Hazaribagh Reformatory School. Shortly the history of this Reformatory School at Hazaribagh is that it is the place where boys of both the provinces of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa go, and according to arrangement come to with the latter Government, we have to pay them a certain sum according to the number of inmates we have. So there is no help for it.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I beg to withdraw this motion, but I must say that some of my friends have misunderstood me. They have not heard what I said and their remarks are absolutely uncalled for.

These motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion, standing in the name of Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,09,87,000 under head '31.—Education (Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 2,10,000."

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 1,09,87,000 for expenditure under the head "31.—Education—Transferred" was then put and agreed to.

32.—Medical.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I move "that a sum of Rs. 45,37,000, be voted for expenditure under the head '32.—Medical.'"

With reference to this motion, I desire to observe that the bulk of the amount is required for the fixed establishments under the Surgeon-General consisting of civil surgeons, assistant surgeons, sub-assistant surgeons and compounders. This, therefore, is a fixed sum which we have to pay from year to year and this amount has been provided for.

The next point to which I desire to draw your attention is the provision made for the Presidency hospitals and dispensaries and similar institutions in the mufassal. This is slightly in excess of the actuals of 1920-21 due, in part, to the hospitals in the mufassal and partly to the new staff required in connection with the School of Tropical Medicine. Moreover, there has been a rise in the charges under medical schools and colleges in the Presidency. That was what might have been expected, due, in part, to the rise in prices, to the special charges for the Burdwan Medical School and also for arrangements in connection with hospital and other work in the School of Tropical Medicine.

There is a considerable amount on the expenditure side for providing a Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi. I understand that this matter has been the subject of criticism and complaint. I am afraid we cannot get out of it; we may or may not like the Lunatic Asylum; but we are pledged to it. We are under an agreement with the Government of India, and there are three Governments concerned in the matter—the Bengal Government, the Government of Bihar and Orissa and the Government of the Central Provinces, all working under the supervision of the Government of India. And, mind you, it is a Lunatic Asylum for Indian patients. The other charges under this head refer to the existing Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi. I do not know that I need

detain the House any longer in regard to the details in this part of the Budget; I move that the sum of Rs. 45,37,000 be voted by this Council for expenditure under the head "32.—Medical."

The following amendment was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 5,46,000 on account of Medical Establishment, be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

Babu NALINI NATH ROY: I move "that the demand of Rs. 1,10,000 for grants for medical purposes be reduced by Rs. 50,000. My object in bringing this motion for reduction is this. Rs. 1,10,000 is to be spent for medical purposes throughout the province of Bengal. Out of this sum, we are going to contribute to the Nurses' Institute altogether Rs. 91,600. For other purposes of the province we shall spend Rs. 18,400. If we contribute Rs. 50,000 less, then it comes to Rs. 41,600 much more than which we are going to spend for other medical purposes.

It is not with any sense of communal antagonism that I am speaking all this. It is, Sir, with the deep-rooted sentiment in the hearts of true-born Indians, as the Minister said last year in connection with a similar motion, that I am proposing this reduction. I do not want to point out the good or bad works of the nurses. But I submit to the Council that the allocation of money under the head "grant for medical purposes" seems to me not proportionate.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I understand that my friend Babu Nalini Nath Roy does not desire to have anything cut down from this grant for the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institute; on the other hand, he wants that this system of nursing be extended to the mufassal. That is his idea and I have no doubt that this is an excellent idea. Last year, I said that this was one of the most admirable institutions which had been founded by the British people in this country and I wished we could help this institution with more money to start work on a broader basis. There is one question which I brought to the notice of this Council and I again beg to repeat what I said. It is this: that we, Bengalis, ought to take particular advantage of this institution which offers a solution of the widow question which is pressing so very much so far as our social questions are concerned. Formerly, we used to have widowed daughters and sisters, cousins, etc., in our house and they used to be our nurses, but things have changed. The joint family system is fast disappearing, and the widows of our houses are fast becoming burdens to us. There may be economic and other reasons for this change, but we see, to our regret, that these widows are not cared for to that extent to which they formerly used to be. If that is so, we ought to open up for them an independent

and honourable means of support and I think nothing can be better for them than this noble art of nursing. I cannot conceive of any work which is so fit for her sex and ennobling to her sentiments than that of nursing the suffering men. I think it is a subject to which I ought to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister as one requiring our special help. I am sure he appreciates this more than anybody else does here; in that view I am asking him to consider whether it is not possible to give a larger amount to start work in conjunction with this institution. We may send the respectable widow girls to this institutions to learn the work of a nurse. In a few years' time they would come out as trained nurses and serve our communities. It is those ladies who come out of England and join this institution that are trained scientifically for this work of nursing and it is those who can teach our widows. Therefore I think it is an institution which we should try to help more and more first, because it will teach our widows to nurse their own relations, and secondly, because it will open for our unfortunate widows a means of existence which is at once useful and honourable, for it helps humanity. I may also add that it affords a means of vocational education to such of our women who have got to earn their own bread.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I wish to say a few words. I fully appreciate the good work that is done by the nurses, and I also appreciate the fact that the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institute, if recast and reorganised on a proper basis, will greatly benefit the Indian community as well. I do not know as yet what the constitution of that society is and as far as I have been able to glean from the papers (of course I speak from memory), there were 13 Indian nurses trained in that institution. I happen to be connected with some of the hospitals here, being on their managing committees; and I know that there is a great dearth of well-trained Indian nurses. I find (I do not speak in a captious spirit) a good number of European nurses trained in the Medical College and Presidency Hospitals and also in one or two other hospitals. For the present, I think, that if the authorities or the conductors of this institution will take the members of this Council into confidence and will reorganise it in such a way as they think desirable, this institution will be of considerable benefit not only to the community to which they belong but also to our community. Its usefulness will be appreciated by the country at large if this is done. I believe I am voicing the sense of our community when I say that they will come forward in large numbers to support the institution, whether it be in their public or private capacity. But I am afraid that no such steps has till now been taken in that direction. I again repeat—now that public attention has been drawn to it—I drew attention to this last year and do so again this year—that we made some increased grant from the Calcutta Corporation, but we want that the constitution of

the institution should be recast so as to embrace the Indian nurses as well. If you come to the northern part of the town, you will find two or three nurses; when you ask them where they were trained they say—"In some mufassal hospital or somewhere else." Some of them are Indian *dais;* these are the people who minister to the comforts of the sick in Indian families. They are not of much use; on the contrary some of them are positively useless, nay dangerous, because they do not know how to handle modern appliances and patients. Therefore, if the institution is reorganised on a proper basis, it will be of immense benefit to the public. I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health, and he might very rightly and properly—he has a happy idea of calling conferences to elicit opinion and views—ask for opinion and information on this subject. When he has done so, I am sure he will be able to materialise the scheme.

Mr. R. H. L. LANGFORD JAMES: It was not my intention to speak on this subject, because later on, we hope, the Calcutta Nurses' Institution will come up before the Council with a request for an additional grant, and it is my intention to speak then. But I should just like to reply to the remarks made by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur regarding the number of Indian nurses that the Institution is training. I may explain that I am the President of the Institution, and, therefore, I know what work it is carrying out. The suggestions made by the Rai Bahadur last year in Council, when speaking on the subject, were by no means lost sight of by the Institution and we have been doing our best to increase the number of Indian nurses in training. Our difficulty is to find the nurses. I think every Indian member of this Council is aware of the tremendous difficulty there is in inducing the better class women of India to take up this work. That is a difficulty with which we are continually faced. The class of women we generally get is not entirely desirable and is not sufficiently educated as a rule to enable the women to develop into satisfactory nurses. However, speaking entirely from memory, I think I am right in saying that at this time last year, we had 16 Indian nurses in training at the Medical College Hospital; at the end of last year we had 24, and therefore, we have increased the number in training by 50 per cent. But if the Rai Bahadur could by any means show us how or where we could get further Indian women to train as nurses, we should be extremely obliged to him, for, the whole of the committee is most anxious to develop the training of Indian nurses. What we should like to see by degrees is a body of Indian nurses being trained by our Institution not only for work in Calcutta but to go out into all the mufassal districts in Bengal.

SURGEON-GENERAL with the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL (Lieutenant-Colonel B. H. Deare): If I have followed the speech of Babu Nalini Nath Roy correctly, he feels that all efforts are at present

concentrated on nursing in Calcutta, and his desire in bringing forward this motion is to draw the attention of Government to the necessity of extending nursing facilities to the mufassal. If I am correct in this, I can assure the member that Government are quite at one with him in that desire to extend nursing facilities to the mufassal, and the best method of doing this is to support loyally that great institution which is now training and registering nurses. The more that institution is supported, the more nurses will we be able to get and send into the mufassal. I would like to say in answer to what Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur said, that at the present time this institution has 190 nurses, and out of that number on this day 113 are utilised simply and solely in the Medical College in the nursing of Indian patients. If the Rai Bahadur will give me the honour of coming to the Medical College any day and seeing the devoted work which is done there for suffering humanity, he will be the first to admit what a splendid work it is.

With regard to what Babu Surendra Nath Mallik has said, I was very glad to hear from the President of the Calcutta Nursing Institution, that he entirely agreed with Babu Surendra Nath Mallik regarding the necessity for training Indian nurses. I should be very glad for one to see a large body of Indian nurses working in our hospitals, particularly in the Indian wards, and also in the mufassal. If any Indian gentleman or a committee of Indian gentlemen come forward, and bring to our notice a body of Indian ladies of education and social standing, who have sufficient education to understand the elements of Anatomy and Physiology, and are willing to undergo a training for three years, then this institution which has done such magnificent work will train and examine them and, if they pass, will register and utilise them in the hospitals of Calcutta, and also, as my friend Babu Nalini Nath Roy wishes, in the hospitals of the mufassal.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I desire to associate myself entirely with the remarks which the Surgeon-General has made. I am very glad from one point of view that my friend Babu Nalini Nath Roy did not withdraw his motion, because it has given rise to a most interesting, and I may say, a most fruitful discussion. It discloses a very gratifying fact that this Council takes a liberal, generous, and sympathetic view as regards the Nursing Institution over which my friend Mr. Langford James so worthily presides. The angle of vision has changed, and public opinion in this Council is very different to-day with regard to this institution from what it was this time last year,—a most happy and a gratifying change. I hope and trust it reflects the public opinion of the country which is bound to be roused by the sense of duty to the country. When it goes forth, when these proceedings are published, I feel certain that people will take a far greater interest in this institution than they have done before, and I trust it will lead to some useful results.

I cordially accept the suggestion thrown out by my friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur that we should hold some sort of a round table conference and discuss this matter between the representatives of the European and the Indian communities. I think we may be able, if possible, to find out some means of discovering ladies of respectability and education for the purpose of qualifying themselves in this great and righteous task. I know of no occupation higher and nobler than that of nursing, and I can think of none which appeals with more irresistible force, with greater directness to the hearts, the consciences, and the sympathies of all women than the opportunity of ameliorating human suffering and human misery.

I am sure that if we meet at a round table conference, and are able to discover practical means of drawing respectable women to an institution of this sort for the training which these nurses receive, we shall have done a great and important work. I am sure if I make that appeal and give an assurance to my friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur that I propose to call a conference on the lines suggested by him, then my friend Babu Nalini Nath Roy will see his way to withdraw his motion.

Babu NALINI NATH ROY: In view of the assurance given by the Minister in charge, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

In the absence of the members, the following amendments were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Ranchi Lunatic Asylum, be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the sum of Rs. 45,37,000 which it is proposed to grant under the head '32.—Medical,' be reduced by Rs. 8,00,000 under the head 'Lunatic Asylum.'"

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 45,37,000 for expenditure under the head "32.—Medical" was then put and agreed to.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: We may now begin on the demands for grants under "33.—Public Health."

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: It is almost time; I think the House should be adjourned.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (to Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): Are you prepared to go on, or would you prefer to start afresh to-morrow?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: My services are at the disposal of the Council. If it is the wish of the Council to continue, I am prepared to do so.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I think we might just begin with the original motion to-night, and deal with the motions for reduction to-morrow.

33.—Public Health.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I move "that a sum of Rs. 15,17,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '33.—Public Health.'"

There is a mistake in the printed Budget; I have added a sum of Rs. 18,000 to what appears in the Budget; this amount represents work to be undertaken for purposes of propaganda to which I attach the utmost importance.

Out of the provision of Rs. 15,17,000, Rs. 8,29,000 are absorbed in establishment, and there seems to be a sort of misapprehension that our establishment in the Public Health Department is a top-heavy one and that it is capable of reduction and retrenchment. Well, I have gone carefully into the matter, and I may at once say that my training and education have all along been on the side of economy; I have never been able to tolerate extravagance in any institutions with which I have been connected, and in my life-time I have helped to build up institutions which started with nothing and which are now flourishing institutions, and therefore, it is not in theory, but also in practice that I am thoroughly wedded to the traditions of economy. I have examined the establishment, and I have come to the conclusion that we cannot effect any reduction so far as the establishment is concerned. Our department is a growing and expanding one, and its activities are varied and multifarious. Let me explain the situation for the past few months, and it will be apparent to the House that we are not over-staffed at all in the higher branches of the department. Practically speaking, the Health Department may be divided into three branches—*viz.*, the research branch which carries on research work; the practical sanitary branch which helps to carry on anti-malarial operations; and what we call the engineering branch, dealing with irrigation works which are initiated by the Health Department. We have got, therefore, these three different branches of activities to deal with. Look at the work that we do, Sir. We have got the Sonarpur Observatory not far from Calcutta This observatory deals with research work in connection with malaria subject to the local conditions. One of our officers, Dr. Khambata, looks after this work. We have got kala-azar and there is an officer who is making researches in connection with kala-azar and he is connected with this branch. I would remind the Council to bear in mind that there is hardly a district which he has visited in which kala-azar is not prevalent.

In the second branch, we have got vital statistics and vaccination to be attended to; we have an officer who does that. Then we have got the laboratory. That also is presided over by a responsible officer. We

have got, I think, six officers looking after this important work, *viz.*, two Directors, and four Assistant Directors and under them we have got four circle officers, persons who carry on our work in the rural areas; they form our eyes and ears, they keep us in living touch with local activities regarding health in the rural areas. We have these 12 officers who attend to our work and to the variety of the work that we have, and do you consider that staff to be excessive? I am sure nobody will be of that opinion. I hope and trust that the amendments, which have been put forward for the purpose of reducing the staff, in view of the explanation I have given, will be withdrawn. I do not for a moment consider our department at all overstaffed; on the contrary, as our work expands, it may be necessary for us to add to the staff. I forgot to mention one other matter of which I have been just reminded. The other day my friend, Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, asked us to subject the river water to chemical examination, on account of the contamination of the water due to the septic tanks. We have got a Bacteriological department, and there is an officer to look after this kind of work.

Then my friend Babu Surendra Narayan Sinha wants that unadulterated food should be standardised. We are doing that. We have got all this multifarious work to be attended to, and I claim once again that we are not overstaffed in respect of the higher branches of our department.

There are other details to which I might call attention. For instance, we have provided a sum of Rs. 5,90,000—the details are in the Budget—for the Dacca sewerage; a sum of Rs. 1,22,000 against epidemics, the details of the Rs. 1,22,000 are, *viz.*, Rs. 60,000 for quinine grants for mufassal municipalities, Rs. 20,000 to be made over to the local bodies for fighting epidemic diseases, and Rs. 10,000 for the Campbell Medical Hospital.

A point has been raised in one of the amendments that we keep a temporary staff. Well, the fact of the matter is that we have a temporary staff, but there is some misapprehension about this, and it lies in the fact that some of the superior engineering officers, the Sanitary Engineer, the Executive Engineer and one or two other officers are all technically placed under the temporary staff; though, as a matter of fact, to all intents and purposes they are permanent. Correspondence is going on between us and the Secretary of State in regard to their tenure of office, and, no doubt, the Secretary of State will accept our recommendations, and they will be made permanent. We have acted on that belief and to all intents and purposes, they are therefore permanent. The permanent staff is supplemented by the temporary staff; applications come from municipalities for water-works schemes, for drainage schemes; we need a temporary staff for works of this kind. Therefore, gentlemen who have given notice of amendments with regard to this matter will now see, and they will themselves realise the

fact that our establishment for all essential purposes is not excessive and must be supplemented by a temporary staff which is needed for the purpose of doing temporary work.

A question has been raised with regard to the house allowance. Under the rules, some of our officers residing in Calcutta are entitled to house allowance and they get it.

There are one or two other points of detail which I may have to refer to, but having regard to the fact that I have nearly exhausted the patience of the House, I shall not go through them.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I move "that the demand for Rs. 1,24,400 under the heading '33A.—Public Health Establishment—Director and Assistant Directors of Public Health' be reduced to Rs. 1,03,402."

I must make it clear at the outset that it was not with the object of embarrassing the Minister for Local Self-Government that I gave notice of this motion. It was more with a view to elicit information with regard to details which I could not understand. Having regard to the facts which have been pointed out by the Hon'ble Minister, and that there is a misprint in the details—the figure ought to have been 12 and not 13 and now that certain other facts have been explained by the Hon'ble Minister, I would be the last person to ask for any reduction in the demand made by his department. I fully appreciate the necessity for making this large grant in respect of his department. With these few words, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: The motion that stands in my name runs as follows:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,36,000 under the heading '33A.—Public Health Establishment—Temporary Establishment' be reduced to Rs. 1,00,000."

When I gave notice of this amendment, I had in my mind the large increase in the allotment which at first sight appeared to me to be inexplicable. The actuals for the year 1920-21 were Rs. 80,740 and last year's estimate was Rs. 1,00,000. I have since consulted Mr. Goode and got all the information I wanted. The Hon'ble the Minister has further explained the reason for the difference in the temporary establishment, and I feel sure that if the same procedure were adopted with regard to the different heads of the Budget, much of the valuable time of the Council could have been easily saved. If a few explanatory notes had been given under every heading of this nature, I am sure many of the amendments also would not have found a place on this list. With these remarks, I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

In the absence of the members, the following amendments were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 2,01,000 under head '33A.—Contingencies' be reduced by Rs. 60,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 2,01,000 under head '33A.—Contingencies' be reduced by Rs. 10,000 proposed as a lump provision for the Publicity Bureau."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 2,01,000 under head '33A.—Contingencies,' be reduced to Rs. 1,00,000."

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till Friday, the 24th March, 1922, at 3 P.M. in the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 24th March, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the following Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, *viz.*, the Hon'ble Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr, C.S.I., C.I.E., and the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, Kt., the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 90 nominated and elected members.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Muhammadan jail warders.

278. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state how many Muhammadan warders have been appointed in the jails of Bengal where their numerical strength is low, such as in the jails of Dacca, Comilla, etc., since I drew the attention of the Government to this?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): A statement giving the information is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 278, showing the number of Muhammadan Head Warders and Warders taken in permanent vacancies from 1st July, 1921.

Name of Circle Jail.	NUMBER OF VACANCIES.		NUMBER OF MUHAMMADANS TAKEN.	
	Head Warders.	Warders.	Head Warders.	Warders.
1	2	3	4	5
Midnapore Circle ...	3	11	1	3
Dacca Circle ...	2	9	1	*
Rajshahi Circle ...	...	9	...	†
Comilla Circle ...	...	6	...	2

* Four vacancies have not yet been filled up for want of suitable recruits.
† No Muhammadan candidates were available.

Machines indented for in the Bengal Secretariat Press.

279. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number and names of the machines of all classes already indented for by Mr. A. J. Norton, the present Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal, for use in the Government press, during his tenure of office;

(*ii*) the total cost incurred in purchasing and fitting up the machines;

(*iii*) the average outturn of work in the press per annum during the past twelve years as compared with that during ten years ending in 1908;

(*iv*) the cost of building extensions carried out at the instance of Mr. Norton to provide accommodation for the machines;

(*v*) the maintenance charges of the machines during the year 1921; and

(*vi*) the total quantity of printing paper consumed in the Bengal Secretariat press during 1908 and 1921?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): (*i*) to (*vi*) The information in the form asked for is not on record, and the preparation of it would, in the opinion of Government, involve time and labour out of all proportion to its value when obtained.

Selection of village Shilmori as the polling centre for election to local board from Chandina thana in Tippera.

280. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state on what ground it is stated in the reply to my unstarred question No. 7 of the 19th December, 1921, that the village Shilmori "lies at the south-eastern end of the thana"?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the answer to clause (*c*) of the said question was reported by the District Magistrate after his personal inquiry?

(*c*) Had the Magistrate an apprehension of any disturbance in other places except in Chandina?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the polling station of any thana other than that of Chandina was changed or not?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether any sort of disturbance occurred in any place?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that from the southern extremity of the thana, Shilmori is six miles off towards the northern side?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) A map is laid on the Library table.

(*b*) Yes; the answer was considered and approved by the District Magistrate.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Yes. The hackney carriage of the circle officer of Chandina was forcibly stopped by volunteers while he was on his way to preside at the election. He could only proceed after delay and difficulty.

(*f*) Shilmori is north-east of the southernmost extremity of the thana.

Certificates under section 72D of the Government of India Act.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I beg to lay on the table two certificates granted by His Excellency under section 72D of the Government of India Act. The first is a small item of Rs. 2,800 for the purpose of carrying on the Paper-Book Department of the High Court up to the end of the current financial year, *i.e.*, up to the end of the present month; and the other is a sum of Rs. 22,000 for expenditure actually incurred in connection with the temporary jail for female prisoners at Berhampore.

The following certificates were then laid on the table:—

HIGH COURT, PAPER-BOOK DEPARTMENT.

Whereas the Government of India have sanctioned the retention of the Paper-Book Department of the High Court till the end of the current financial year, and whereas the sum of Rs. 41,000 restored by me on the 26th May, 1921, at the instance of the Government of India, to provide for the expenditure of the Paper-Book Department for six months, is not sufficient to meet the expenditure of that department for the whole year, I hereby certify, under proviso (*a*) of section 72D (2) of the Government of India Act, that the further expenditure of Rs. 2,800 for the said purpose, under the head "24.—Administration of Justice," is essential for the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

RONALDSHAY,

Governor of Bengal.

The 20th March, 1922.

TEMPORARY JAIL FOR FEMALE PRISONERS, BERHAMPORE.

I hereby certify that expenditure of the amount of Rs. 16,600, provided for by the demand of Rs. 22,000 for the temporary jail for female prisoners at Berhampore, under the head "25.—Jails and Convict Settlements," is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

RONALDSHAY,

Governor of Bengal.

The 18th March, 1922.

The Budget of the Government of Bengal, 1922-23.

Demands for Grants.

33.—Public Health.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: My object was to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to certain things with regard to this Budget, and as the Hon'ble Minister has explained the matters to the satisfaction of this House, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment which runs as follows:—

"That the demand of Rs. 7,72,000 for Public Health Establishment (Detailed Account No. 33A), be reduced by Rs. 36,000."

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I move "that the demand of Rs. 7,72,000 on account of 'Public Health Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

My object also is to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to this item of the Budget in order to have a discussion on some points and also to elicit some information. I may say at once that I have not brought in this amendment with a view to level a carping criticism against the work of this department. I know that sometimes we are misrepresented and misjudged but I can assure the House that I have no intention in moving this resolution to criticise in a captious manner the work of the Hon'ble Minister.

With reference to this item, I beg to draw attention to some of the figures which have struck me. No doubt there is some explanation. The actual expenditure under Public Health was as follows, for the last three years:—

	Rs.
1918-19	... 3,07,000
1919-20	... 4,66,000
1920-21	... 6,95,000

Thus, we find that the expenditure has steadily increased from year to year on account of establishment alone; and the same tendency to increase is also manifest in the present budget. For the revised estimate for the current year stands at Rs. 8,21,000, showing an increase of Rs. 1,26,000 on the figure of 1920-21. Again, the Budget estimate for the next year has risen to Rs. 8,29,000. The increase as compared with the revised estimate for 1921-23 is slight. The increase may be slight but the upward tendency is maintained. Let us see the other side of the Budget. For the current year, the grant for Public Health—which is the most essential part of useful expenditure in the department—stands at Rs. 6,43,000, (I hope I am correct in these figures), while the Budget provision for the next year amounts to Rs. 5,90,000. This proposed reductions shows a decrease of more than half a lakh of rupees on account of the most useful part of the expenditure in the department. At the same time, however, the expenditure on account of establishment charges has also considerably increased. The total expenditure, as I have been able to find out from the Budget on account of works in connection with Public Health, amounts to Rs. 5,90,000 and the establishment amounts to Rs. 8,29,000. These figures require explanation, and I think that more light might be thrown upon them by the Hon'ble Minister. I know very well and we are all aware, that he is fully alive to the necessity of carrying on sanitary measures as vigorously as possible; and as far as the money placed at his disposal permits him, he is prepared to carry on works of sanitary improvement and public health. At the same time, I hope you will forgive me if I draw his attention to the fact that the expenditure on actual establishment amounts to Rs. 8,29,000, while the expenditure on actual works, as far as I am able to find out from the Budget figures, amounts only to Rs. 5,90,000. I think, Sir, that he is fully alive to the true necessities of the Department and I consider it my duty to bring this to his notice, in the hope that he will, no doubt, enlighten us and give some useful information, so that our misconception may be removed.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: All the transferred departments are characterised as nation-building departments; but none of the departments are more important from this point of view than the Department of Public Health, which might be called the key-stone of the Agriculture and Industries Department, and the portal of the Department of Education. Without health what outturn can we get from our labour? Men who are stricken by malaria or infected by *kala-azar* and whose energy and strength have been reduced to a minimum. Without good physique how will the young men of Bengal cope with the robust youth and young men from other parts of India? For these reasons I recommend that the various amendments for reduction of grants demanded for the Department of Public Health should be withdrawn. I find with satisfaction that at the instance of the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, the

Minister in charge of Public Health Department whose mature guidance, it is our privilege to follow, that many of those who brought forward amendments for reduction of grants to the Medical and Public Health Departments, have thought it wiser to withdraw them after hearing what the Hon'ble Minister had to say. There is a very old saying *Mens sana in corpore sano*, "a sound mind is in a sound body." I see before me the robust corporation of my friend, Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, who has demonstrated the soundness of his mind and the sanity of his wisdom by withdrawing his motion for reduction of grant and I trust the others will follow his example. I hope there will be no more motions for reduction of grants to the Public Health Department which is not only a nation-building, but is also the nation-preserving department.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to support Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur's motion. His object is to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the extraordinary disproportion between expenditure on direction and that on the actual work. Rupees 8 lakhs for direction and, as has been pointed out, Rs. 5 lakhs for actual work seem to me a very absurd proportion. If it is a fact, I am perfectly sure that the Hon'ble Minister will be the first person to reduce this disproportion. In no case can more than 33 per cent. of the entire expenditure be allowed to direction only.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (Mr. S. W. Goode): The Hon'ble the Minister has already explained at some length the work of the Public Health Department and I merely wish to say one or two words in reply or rather to give the explanation which Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has asked for. He points to the great disparity which exists between the expenditure on establishment and the amount that we have allotted to sanitary works. The department fully agrees with the Rai Bahadur that if we are to obtain the confidence of this House, we must show them works; but the constructive work of the department, if in that term for the moment I merely include the work of the engineering branch has been largely limited in the previous year, owing to the fact that the department has had no money to spend. We have a very long list of municipal works, projects for water-works and drainage and sewerage, which are ready for execution. The detailed projects have been prepared, and it is only a matter of making the financial arrangements in order that these works may proceed. Most of the municipalities are quite ready to do their part if they can rely on some assistance from Government. The Hon'ble Minister, I know, hopes that with the revenue which the new taxation is likely to make available in the coming year, we shall be able to embark on a much larger programme of works than what this Budget now provides for. It will be left for the supplementary Budget which, the Council knows, will shortly be laid before it to include the important sanitary improvements in municipalities which we were unable, when

framing the Budget, to finance. Now, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has pointed out that the expenditure on establishment has shown a large increase. I think, however, that much of that increase is purely nominal. If you will look at the figures, you will see that under the head of non-voted expenditure there is an item of Rs. 17,000 this year as against Rs. 5,000 in the present financial year. It is due to the fact that we now have a Director of Public Health Laboratory, whereas for some time past we have been carrying on that department without any proper head. Again, you will see that in the budget provision—non-voted—there is an item of Rs. 33,000 which is provided for the pay of the Chief Engineer and the senior Executive Engineer and which exceeds, by about Rs. 10,000, the allotment for the previous year. This is merely due to the fact that the Chief Engineer was on leave in that year. If you will look at items of that kind, you will find that the total amount spent on establishment is practically the same as was provided in the Budget estimates for the previous year. I think it is unnecessary for me to attempt to justify the employment of the establishment that we now have. There is, however, one point which I should like to lay before the Council Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has complained that the grant for public health works, namely Rs. 5,90,000, is inadequate. We quite agree with him; but as I have explained, we hope to increase the amount in the supplementary Budget. Now that allotment contains a sum of Rs. 32,000, which is provided as a grant for the water-works of the Comilla municipality. The Comilla water-supply scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 3,88,000. It has been on the tapis for several years and certain members of this Council have urged the necessity of carrying through this scheme. Of this sum of Rs. 3,88,000, Government agreed in 1920 to pay Rs. 2,00,000 as a grant and also to give a loan of Rs. 33,000. Prices of materials have gone up and Government is now asked to give a grant of Rs. 2,11,000 and also to give a loan of Rs. 45,000. We have however, provided in the Budget for a grant of Rs. 32,000 and for a loan of Rs. 45,000. The question is whether Government can go ahead and allow this grant to the municipality, assuming that you vote it, or whether Government is to proceed more cautiously owing to the fact that this is merely the first instalment and there is no certainty that you or your successors will vote the remaining instalments. This is the difficulty which we have recently felt in dealing with all water-supply and drainage schemes. In the old days, it was a simple matter, as Government was one in a sense in which it is hardly one now. Formerly if any member in charge of a department promised a grant to a municipality, it was certain that his successor would redeem his promise and that the grant would be paid when it was required. Now, we must obtain the sanction of this Council for every item of expenditure that we incur and it is necessary to have your general approval to a scheme before we encourage the local body to invest its own money on any scheme which it cannot afford to finance without Government

aid. In future, the Hon'ble Minister's intention is that these schemes, after being examined by the Sanitary Board should be laid before the Standing Committee and that the Standing Committee's recommendation will come, in the form of a memorandum, before the Legislative Council. If the total grant that is required amounts to Rs. 3,00,000, the Legislative Council may be asked in any year to vote Rs. 50,000. In voting that amount, it will be explained to the Legislative Council that we must look ahead; in voting Rs. 50,000, in a case such as this it must be assumed that they approve of the scheme which will have been explained and that they will, when the time comes, vote the remaining instalments to the local body. In the present case, all we now ask you, is to vote Rs. 32,000 included in this sum of Rs. 5,90,000 for the Comilla municipality. But the Hon'ble Minister is not prepared without the approval of the Council to tell the Comilla municipality that it may go ahead with its scheme with this grant of Rs. 32,000, because the municipality is looking to Government for Rs. 2,11,000. Government promised it Rs. 2,00,000 in 1920, but that Government is not the Government which now presides over this presidency. We, therefore, ask you to agree that, in voting a grant of Rs. 32,000 which is now included in this amount of Rs. 5,90,000, the remaining instalments of Rs. 2,11,000 should, in due course, as they are required in the course of the next two or three years, be also voted to the Comilla municipality, to enable it to complete the water-supply scheme. Unless there is some such arrangement, I am sure the Council will agree that the inclusion of sanitary works in the public health budget will be impossible. I therefore hope that you will bear this fact in mind and you will accept responsibility for the pledge which Government gives to the municipality that it will subsequently pay the further instalments necessary to carry through the work.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: As reference has been made to the sum of Rs. 33,000 proposed to be granted to the Comilla water-works, about which there is no amendment, that it is only the first instalment of a bigger amount, I think it is necessary that I, coming from the division of Chittagong—Comilla being one of the districts of the Division—should explain matters to the Council. Comilla is now suffering from all sorts of diseases. Formerly it was the healthiest station in the Eastern Bengal, but now owing to the development and rapid expansion in many ways it no longer occupies the said position. There is no doubt that there is some good water in certain tanks in the town which is the only source of supply of water. But that is no longer sufficient. Fever, cholera, small-pox and other diseases break out especially in the dry season of the year. There is, therefore, the utmost necessity for water-works. If it be the sense of this Council to attempt always to mitigate the sufferings of people by supplying good drinking water, I think we should take up the matter in hand and there should be no attempt to refuse this grant. In this case, the whole amount that is necessary is

Rs. 2,11,000. The Council has been asked to consider whether Rs. 30,000 budgeted should be voted as subsequent instalments may not be granted by future Council. Considering the necessity in this matter, even if it is required that this Council should commit its successors also to the grant of other instalments, I think we should go so far as that. At the same time, I do not quite follow the explanation, which Mr. Goode has given to the Council. He referred to the fact that the former Government is no longer in existence, and the present one will not continue after the life of this Council. My idea is that, though some Councillors may not come back, the Council will remain the same and the Government will also remain the same. If we really take up a project in hand, I am sure that the succeeding authorities may have to consider whether the project should be continued or not. As an instance I might mention that the Grand Trunk Canal project was taken up last year, and we voted it out. But there may be others which we may continue and in the majority of cases I think we shall continue the projects. Therefore relying on the good sense of the coming Councils that they will not certainly give up a project like that of the Comilla water-works, I think we had better vote this amount. Otherwise it will be a great deterrent as regards taking up of big projects in which money required must be necessarily have to be advanced in gradual instalments extending over many years.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: In concluding the discussion on this part of the Budget, I desire to thank hon'ble members for the friendly attitude which they have displayed in relation to the Budget so far as it affects the Public Health and Medical Departments. I am sure that this attitude is a source of great pleasure and encouragement to me and I can only hope that it will continue when larger the projects affecting Sanitation and the Medical Department are placed before this Council ("Hear, hear"). The criticisms that have been made are friendly and just and I have not a word of complaint to breathe against them. I hope and trust that the same spirit will pervade our discussions in this Council and falsify the anxieties of our critics who seem to think that some of us are out for wrecking the Reform scheme.

There is just one matter to which I desire for one moment to refer—it was alluded to by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur and Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur—namely, that while we spend about Rs. 8 lakhs—(A voice: "Rs. 8,29,000") I am speaking in round numbers—on establishment, we have been able only to spend Rs. 5 lakhs on actual work. I plead guilty to the soft impeachment (A voice: "Not 'soft'"). But we have not yet been able to make provision for the real practical work that lies before us. We are now not yet in a position to do that. This is all that I want to say.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: After what has fallen from the Hon'ble the Minister, and considering the friendly attitude he has

displayed even after receiving my criticisms and also in the hope that he will do something which will dispel our misconceptions, I beg leave to withdraw the motion, notwithstanding the fact that the cost of establishment is more than the cost of the actual works.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendment was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 14,99,000 under head '33.—Public Health,' be reduced by Rs. 1,50,000."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 15,17,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "33.—Public Health" was then put and agreed to.

34.—Agriculture.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I move "that the grant of Rs. 19,04,000 be voted for expenditure under the head '34.—Agriculture.'"

This main head covers the minor heads Veterinary, Agriculture proper, and Co-operative Credit, and I shall deal with these separately.

For the Veterinary Department the transferred budget amounts to Rs. 3,51,000 against Rs. 3,42,000, the revised estimate for the current year. There is thus an increase of only Rs. 9,000 over the revised estimate, and this is accounted for by the grant of Rs. 10,000 which it is proposed to make to the Calcutta Corporation for the establishment of a City Veterinary Department. Some time ago the Calcutta Corporation approached the Government with a proposal that the Corporation should establish a properly staffed and equipped Veterinary Department and they requested that Government should bear a share of the cost. After fully considering the matter, Government decided that some contributions ought to be given for the purpose and they agreed to bear half the cost of the City Veterinary Department subject to the maximum of Rs. 15,000 provided a fully-qualified veterinary officer were put in charge of the department. The Corporation of Calcutta are arranging to comply with the condition and Government will then have to meet its undertaking to contribute half the cost. It is estimated that for the next year this will amount to Rs. 10,000. There are small fluctuations under the various headings of the Veterinary budget, but these do not call for any special remarks. I think the fact that the estimates provide for this contribution of Rs. 10,000 also includes Rs. 6,400 for improving the pay of the ministerial staff, that is, a total increase of over Rs. 16,000, while the Budget exceeds the revised estimate by only Rs. 9,000 is sufficient evidence that it has been framed with all possible regard to economy.

I now turn to the head "34B.—Agriculture." The transferred budget amounts to Rs. 13,49,000 against the revised estimate of Rs. 12,69,000 and the original estimate of Rs. 13,48,000 for the current year. Of this estimate Rs. 2,23,000 is for the Botanical Gardens, leaving Rs. 11,46,000 for the Department of Agriculture. It shows that the estimate for the Department of Agriculture of this province is not extravagant.

I may refer to the figures of other major provinces. Against the Bengal estimates of Rs. 11,26,000 Madras has an estimate of Rs. 18,59,000. Bombay, with a cultivating area almost the same as that of Bengal, provided no less than Rs. 18,90,000 for the Agricultural Department proper' in 1921-22. The United Provinces provided Rs. 17,58,000 in the same year, while the Punjab, which has a cultivated area less than that of Bengal by over six million acres, made a budget provision of Rs. 15,37,000. These figures are even more striking when we remember that the Agricultural Department in Bengal includes the Sericulture Department which does not exist in any other province. If we deduct the provision of Rs. 2,21,000 under sericulture from the Bengal Budget, it leaves us with a grant of Rs. 9,05,000 for agriculture proper; therefore, the Budget provisions made by Bombay and Madras in 1921-22 were more than double our estimates for the next year; while even the minor provinces like the Central Provinces, provide Rs. 9,51,000 or Rs. 46,000 more than we propose to expend.

I think these figures justify me in saying that the Agricultural Department in Bengal is undermanned and is seriously handicapped by want of funds.

Examining the details of the Budget it will be seen that the increase includes Rs. 29,000 under the head "other supervising staff—Salaries." This does not allow for any additional staff beyond that already sanctioned. It merely provides for maintaining the sanctioned staff of the department at its full strength. The estimates provide for four Deputy Directors of Agriculture, but up to the present only three of these have been appointed. I may remind the Council that the appointment of a fourth Deputy Director of Agriculture was debated at great length during the discussion on the current year's budget estimates and the Council, recognising the necessity for the appointment, voted the required provision. As regards the figure "17" in column 3, opposite the words "Other Gazetted Officers—Other Supervising Staff" I may explain it is a misprint. The figure should be "14" which is the same as last year, and the figure "14" which follows the words "Other Gazetted Officers" should be 11. The other principal causes contributing to the increase are the provision for the revision of the pay of the ministerial staff and the increase of pay sanctioned for the menials.

Provision of Rs. 13,000 has also been made for the distribution of improved seed No provision is shown against this item in the revised

estimate, but the Director of Agriculture reports that expenditure amounting to Rs. 12,000 has actually been incurred though the payment has not yet been made.

Further, there is a provision of Rs. 17,000 for publicity work. I need not dwell at length upon the necessity for propaganda as an important means of spreading the benefits that result from the research of the Agricultural Department. A start has already been made in a small way by the deputation of an officer for such work in the Burdwan Division, and the results have been successful beyond our expectations.

As regards the estimate for the Botanical Gardens, it exceeds the revised estimates for the current year only by Rs. 2,000 and is Rs. 8,000 less than the original estimate for the current year. This trifling increase over the revised estimate calls for no explanation.

I turn lastly to the head "34C.—Co-operative Credit."

The total transferred estimates amount only to Rs. 4,37,000 against Rs. 4,63,000 in the revised estimates and Rs. 4,67,000 in the original estimates for the current year. This decrease shows that the strictest attention has been paid to economy.

In accordance with our policy of having an Assistant Registrar for each division—a policy which is being necessitated by the rapid spread of the co-operative movement—we have made provision for an Assistant Registrar in the division of Chittagong. I may, however, point out that the pay of these officers is not an extra charge, because, with the appointment of an Assistant Registrar to each division, it will be possible to make over the care of industrial societies to these Divisional Assistant Registrars and we are, therefore, abolishing the special post of Assistant Registrar for industrial societies. The increase of the staff in the department to keep pace with the rapid increase in the number of societies is an urgent matter, but in the present circumstances, we have not been able to make any provision in the Budget for this purpose. I think that the figures that I have quoted under all the sub-heads are sufficient proof that there is no extravagance in the management of the department concerned, but that on the contrary our estimated expenses have been cut down to an extent that I might almost describe as dangerous.

I ask the Council to vote the full grant of Rs. 19,04,000.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 3,04,000 under head '34A.—Veterinary Charges,' be reduced by Rs. 29,000."

The charges of this Department are increasing every year. The revised estimate of this current year is Rs. 16,000 more than the Budget estimate and again the Budget Estimate of 1921-22 is higher by nearly Rs. 15,000 than the actuals of 1920-21. The small increase in the Budget Estimate of last year was due to "Salaries and contingencies" besides that provision was made for additional Inspectors and assistants, a lump

provision was also made for their pay. But this year though the increase is higher than the last year, the Hon'ble Minister did not think it necessary to explain it properly, and consequently, we are at a loss to understand why the excess to the amount of Rs. 16,000 was spent.

The increase of expenditure under this department without any material service in return, cannot be justified. I must confess that the agricultural people like us are in real need of veterinary education and veterinary help. But to extend the blessings of the Department to the cottages of the poor peasants requires an enormous amount of money which for the present we are unable to undertake. But though we cannot extend the blessings to every nook and corner, we require the services of the Department in our city-life. I think those who require the services in the cities are rich enough to pay for them and therefore the organisation of the Department on the charity basis is useless. Moreover, most of the District Boards and Municipalities of Bengal have appointed their own veterinary officers who attend to the needs of both the poor and the rich. That is why I think this Department must produce qualified veterinary practitioners and any attempt to do anything beyond this will not be commensurate with our means and, therefore, needless expenditure for further extension is useless. I, therefore, suggest a reduction of Rs. 7,000 from the grant to Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents and Rs. 2,000 from their travelling allowances. In the same way, I think 19 Veterinary Court Inspectors and 15 Hospital Surgeons are useless and a reduction of the amount by Rs. 8,000 of the grant to the Veterinary Court Inspectors and Rs. 1,000 from the grant to the Veterinary assistants can safely be made. In the same way, I like to suggest a reduction to the amount of Rs. 11,000 from the grant to Veterinary Inspectors and assistants under hospitals and dispensaries. Thus my totals amount to Rs. 29,000. These are the possible ways of retrenchment on the principle that further extension is at present useless, a curtailment of expenditure has become necessary. I learn from Mr. Swan that some contributions are annually given to the District Boards and Municipalities where vets are employed, but as they are rich enough such contributions might safely be discontinued. I therefore ask the House to give a careful consideration to my proposals.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am thankful to Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur for having brought this matter to our notice. I find a very extraordinary state of things in this matter. Veterinary is one of the most vital subjects in this agricultural country, and I find that of Rs. 3,51,000 only Rs. 9,000 was actually spent on hospitals and dispensaries and the whole of the balance was spent on establishment, superintendence and inspection. I read in the papers that when there was an outbreak of rinderpest in some country in England, £8,000,000 were spent and without a word of complaint; but here every year, our cattle are decimated by rinderpest but not a single pice

is spent, and whatever is spent is spent on establishment. This is a state of things which is intolerable.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The work of the Veterinary Department falls into two main sections, the Veterinary College and the Civil Veterinary Department. The Veterinary College trains young men for the profession of veterinary doctor. The Civil Veterinary Department aims at extending the benefits of veterinary knowledge to the mufassal of Bengal. The principle underlying this motion is the abolition of the Civil Veterinary Department, and the transfer of the whole veterinary work of the province to district boards and municipalities. That will be the effect of the reductions proposed by the mover, and I cannot believe that it will commend itself to the Council. First there is the question of finance. Some district boards and municipalities may be well enough off to undertake full financial responsibility for veterinary work, but the majority are not in a position to maintain it even in its present state, to say nothing of the extension that is essential in the near future. Then there is the question of supervision. I do not see how this can be left to the chairmen of district boards and municipalities. Expert advice is essential if the efficiency of the district staff is to be maintained. I ask the Council not to throw the whole burden of the cost of veterinary work on the local bodies of Bengal, but to let Government bear a share of the cost, by rejecting this motion. As I have pointed out, the estimate exceeds the revised estimate by only Rs. 9,000. The contribution to municipalities and district boards, I may explain, takes the form of bearing one-third of the cost of the veterinary assistants employed by them.

As regards expenditure on rinderpest, about Rs. 29,000 was spent on serum alone in 1920-21, and a provision of Rs 24,000 has been made in this Budget under Hospitals and Dispensaries—Contingencies.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following amendments were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: "That the demand for travelling allowance under '34B.—Agriculture—Superintendence,' be reduced by Rs. 3,000."

Babu FAINDRALAL DE: "That the demand for Hill allowance under 'Superintendence, Detailed account 34B.—Agriculture,' be refused."

Babu FANINDRALAL DE: "That the demand for house rent and other allowances under '34B.—Agriculture—Superintendence,' be reduced by Rs. 500."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 14,500 under '34B.—Allowances—Superintendence' be reduced to Rs. 10,000."

I am afraid I have created some feeling of annoyance by continually attempting to harp on allowances and in asking the Council to cut down certain demands. Sir, I also appreciate your suggestion to shorten all introductory remarks with respect to this continual recurrence of the same subject. But I want to point out to you that I have never used the same stock arguments on every instance. Each of my proposals for reduction or refusal of these demands is based on separate facts and independent arguments and I would request the Council to bear with me a little when I try to explain the different sets of figures as they have appeared to me from the study of this year's Budget compared with the actuals from accounts of the year 1919-20 and 1920-21. I believe the Council is well aware that Agriculture is not after all a totally transferred subject. For Darjeeling and Chittagong Hill Tracts as well as for Botanical and other public gardens, and special sericulture experiments and also for special contributions and grants in Agriculture, we have altogether Rs. 42,000 estimated as Reserved. Thus although Agriculture, etc., of Darjeeling do not come under the transferred portion, I fail to understand why the officers, etc., budgeted under transferred portion have to be provided with Hill allowance of Rs. 500 in the coming year against Rs. 57, actual sum spent in 1919-20, and which is increased to Rs. 294 in the year 1920-21. May not the Council inquire why the steps of Bombay and Madras cannot be copied in Bengal? The Governor of Madras has announced his intention to cancel all his proposed travelling for the months of March and April next—why then can our Director of Agriculture not give up his sojourn to the hills at least for a year? I therefore request the Council to refuse the demand for Rs. 500 as the Hill allowance. Perhaps I would be told that the Hill allowance is for the clerks and not for the officers. But what I fail to understand is this that if the Director remains in the plains how can the clerks and staff go to the hills? The actual expenditure in 1920-21 for house rents, etc., was only Rs. 164, in the revised Budget estimate for 1920-21 it was Rs. 1,000, for 1922-23, the Council has been asked to sanction Rs. 2,000 for one officer and his personal assistant. Moreover, for 1920-21 it was Rs. 1,000, for 1922-23, the Council has been asked to to sanction travelling allowance of Rs. 12,000 against the actual expenditure of Rs. 10,379 for 1920-21. My request to the Council is to refuse the Hill allowance of Rs. 500 altogether and of the demand of Rs. 14,000 (*i.e.*, Rs 12,000 plus Rs. 2,000) for travelling and house allowances, etc., and that only Rs. 9,500 be sanctioned, thus bringing down the total under "Allowances" to Rs. 1,000.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Of the total amount of Rs 14,500, Rs. 12,000 is for the travelling expenses of the Director of Agriculture, his personal assistant,

his tour clerk and other officers who may have to accompany him on tour. Obviously, if the Agricultural Department is to do any good at all, it is essential that the Director of Agriculture should be constantly on tour, supervising and inspecting the work of his officers and familiarizing himself with what is being done by them in every part of the province. The grant is not excessive. It is in fact less by Rs. 3,000 than the revised estimate of the current year and it is most undesirable that the tours of the Director of Agriculture should be curtailed.

The motion was then put and lost.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI [Before proceeding with his speech, the member, after consultation with the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Department of Agriculture and Industries, asked for permission to amend his motion, which was granted.] moved "that the demand under the head 'Detailed account' under '34B.—Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 10,640."

It will be seen on referring to Detailed Account 34B.—Agriculture, that while provision was made for Rs. 2,66,000 for experimental farms in the last Budget, in this Budget only a provision of Rs. 2,21,000 has been made on that account, *i.e.*, a reduction of Rs. 45,000 or about 17 per cent. has been proposed. So also, if the head agricultural experiments be taken into account, it will be seen that instead of Rs. 97,000 in 1921-22, an expenditure of Rs. 22,500 only has been estimated under this head, *i.e.*, a reduction of Rs. 74,500 or more than 75 per cent. has been effected. Similarly, under the head "Divisional Seed Stores," instead of Rs. 26,000 in 1921-22, only a sum of Rs. 14,000 has been provided, *i.e.*, a reduction of about 45 per cent. has been proposed. And the less said of agricultural schools the better, for the Government is not in a position to spare more than a few thousand rupees for such schools probably because more than 90 per cent. of the population and tax-payers of this province depend on agriculture if not agriculturists themselves. Thus it will be seen that under head "Agriculture" reduction is contemplated and expenditure cut down all along the line except under the sub-head "Superintendence." And not only so but that it is proposed to spend more for supervision, almost with a vengeance as it were, for instead of Rs. 4,12,000 budgeted under the head in 1921-22, the total expenditure for supervising staff has been estimated at Rs. 4,73,000 for the coming year, *i.e.*, an increased expenditure of Rs. 61,000 has been proposed for supervising staff when the cost of superintendence and supervision covers more than 50 per cent. of the total expenditure for agriculture proper. What appears, therefore, on an analysis of the provisions in the Budget is that while the Government is cutting down expenditure and limiting its activities for the improvement of agriculture, it is proposing to add to the cost of supervision and thus making the top-heavy administration heavier and costlier than before. I therefore propose that the demand

for salaries under head "Other Supervising Staff" be reduced by Rs. 10,640.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I oppose this motion for the abolition of the two Deputy Directors of Agriculture whose salary is voted. I have shown in moving this vote that our expenditure on agriculture might reasonably be described as parsimonious compared with what is spent by other provinces. The natural result is that the department is undermanned. It has been said that there is duplication of work among the Deputy Directors and Superintendents. I am having this question examined and any duplication that exists will be done away with by reorganising the work of the officers concerned. The total of the work to be done is more than can be done by the existing staff and any reduction of staff would mean a serious curtailment of the work of the department. I may remind the Council of the comparison I made last year between the higher staff of the department in Bengal and in other provinces. In Bengal we have 8 officers of the Indian Agricultural Service The Central Provinces have 15 Imperial posts sanctioned, including 7 Deputy Directors, the United Provinces have 15 posts including 6 Deputy Directors, Burma has 15 posts including 11 Deputy Directors and Madras has no less than 25 posts including 8 Deputy Directors. Can it be said that our 8 posts including 4 Deputy Directors is extravagant or even adequate? I may remind the Council that only last year this subject was discussed at great length and provision made by it for a fourth Deputy Director. Owing to the financial position this post was not filled up and the money voted was saved, but it is essential that an officer should be appointed at once if the work of the department is not to suffer. I ask the Council to reject this motion.

As regards motion No. 299, I may explain that the figure 17 in column 3 of the Budget is a misprint and should read 14. The figure "14" after the words "Other gazetted officers" should read 11. There is no provision for any new officers. I therefore ask the mover to withdraw his motion. The increase in the total "Other Supervising Staff" is due to the provision for a fourth Deputy Director and to provision being made for the full sanctioned staff.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following amendments were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 1,11,000 under head '34B.—Other Supervising Staff—Allowances' be reduced to Rs. 60,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 13,720 under head '34B.—Sericulture Allowances,' be reduced to Rs. 10,000."

The movers being absent, the following amendments were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the grant under the head '34B.—Agriculture,' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: "That the demand for '34B.—Agriculture,' be reduced by Rs. 1,50,000."

Babu NALINI NATH ROY: In the absence of Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur I beg to move "that the demand under head '34B.—Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 55,000."

I must confess at the outset that I am in the unhappy position of a man who knows much of his subject but cannot fully speak out his mind on prudential grounds. Bengal is prominently an agricultural country and everything should be done and no expense should be grudged for its agricultural developments. On these two points, I fully agree with the people of Bengal and every member of the Council, and yet I move for the reduction of the agricultural grant for the coming official year. My action in the matter is likely to be misunderstood and misinterpreted especially by those who have no first-hand knowledge of official modes and methods. And the new era of the Reform has brought no change in this respect of spending money for the upkeep of a department. I keenly feel the situation and my position in moving for this reduction. But impelled by the sense of duty which I owe to my countrymen and constituents, and more particularly to the Bengal agriculturists, I have brought forward this motion. Personally speaking, I should have been glad to be silent in the matter. However, I plead for a very small reduction of Rs. 55,000 only from the budgeted expenditure of the department for the coming year; and it comes only to a very small percentage of reduction. If only useless tours by the officials of the department are discontinued, this small reduction will not be felt by the department. But I ask for an all-round reduction in the cost of the administration of the department—a prohibitive cost to be sure—and that for a department which has not done anything as yet to justify the expenditure of so many lakhs every year. The country's revenue (and is not Bengal a very poor country ?) ought not to be allowed to be spent only for perfecting the administration of the department by adding and increasing the number of highly-paid officials Has any of the demonstration farms in Bengal been found to pay its own expenses? The country has got only a few demonstration farms and they are not productive, nay far from productive, and yet they cost the country Rs. 35,044 a year only for superintendence. Other items of expenditure for the upkeep of these few farms is understood to be Rs. 2,10,000 or more. I also find an item of expenditure of Rs. 1,20,000 in the Budget for "other charges." It will be interesting to learn what these "other charges" are to be. I leave it to

the Council to think what these other charges of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, signify. Sir, I beg to ask if we have not the right to expect full details of what these " other charges " will be. However, if this sum of Rs. 1,20,000 has been budgeted for publicity work it ought to be reduced substantially. It is to be regretted that the departmental authorities are so much lacking in sense of proportion and appropriateness.

Is there any agricultural college in Bengal like that of Cawnpore and Sabour? Have dairy farms been opened by the department? What improvement has been made in the actual yield of crops? I am afraid answers to these questions will not prove satisfactory. It is understood that provision has been made in the Budget for publicity work for the Departments of Agriculture and Industries and Public Health and a Calcutta English daily, edited by a talented Englishman, is in ecstacy that the departments have provided for " good advertisements." Indeed, advertisement at the cost of the people. And good advertisement too! The Reforms era has brought in this new phase in our administration and it is the general belief that the above three departments are more than " overdoing " good advertisement. Speaking of advertisements, let me say that much agricultural information has been disseminated, but it is doubtful how far the agriculturists have actually profited by it. As an item of publicity work, if not for good advertisement, a scheme for secondary agricultural schools has very recently been mooted and widely published. That scheme has all the imperfections of an official mind not in touch with the agriculturists. But of that no more to-day. Further, the department has done very little in the matter of breeding milch-cows and draught bullocks. Perhaps, like the demonstration farms, all other works of the department are in the experimental stage; and also, perhaps, it will continue to be such for years to come unless the present method of superintendence and work is forthwith changed to give place to a constructive programme. And now to the actual facts and figures. Let us note the yearly expenditure of the department. Rupees 12,40,000 has been provided for the coming official year and this was also the revised Budget figure of the closing year 1921-22. Surely this in itself is not an extravagant figure for the Department of Agriculture—if we were convinced that the amount is to be wisely spent to work out constructive programmes. My point is that the department spends more for " Superintendence " than for agricultural development. If the department claims for a record of success, that record must be a very poor one and the department is manned by the following staff:—

(1) Director—Rs. 24,600 yearly.

(2) Other gazetted officers—Rs. 4,080 yearly.

(3) Four Deputy Directors—Rs. 38,640 yearly.

(4) Seventeen other gazetted officers—Rs. 45,000 yearly.

(5) 14 officers—Rs. 41,000 yearly.

(6) 184 Technical staff—Rs. 1,15,000 yearly.

(7) Clerks and servants—Rs. 24,168 yearly.

(8) Temporary establishments—Rs. 35,000 yearly.

(9) Travelling allowance—Rs. 1,00,000 yearly.

The cost of "Superintendence" comes to Rs. 4,73,000 a year and I have given elsewhere the cost of superintendence under the head experimental or demonstration farms which absorb Rs. 2,20,544 besides Rs. 63,000 a year for contingencies. Can extravagance in "Superintendence" go further? It is unfortunate that of all other departments, the Department of Agriculture will be so much in want of touch with public sentiment and so ignorant of the needs of agricultural Bengal. The officials of the department are more prone to play at *hakims* than to be the benefactors of the raiyats. This tendency of the official mind is to be regretted, or else one has no right to criticise the tendency to aloofness of the officials of the executive and police departments. The authorities and officials of the agricultural department ought to be cognisant of the fact that public opinion on their activities is a factor to be reckoned with. Are we to think that the actual requirements of the Bengal raiyats are of no concern to the authorities? It may not be wrong to infer that they are oblivious of the fact that the hitherto inarticulate masses will no longer remain voiceless and before long their voice will be irresistably potent. I feel I am expressing myself strongly and that is because I feel the situation very strongly. In speaking on the subject, I am only giving correct expression to the public opinion in rural Bengal and of the Bengal agriculturists.

I now beg to submit that a reminder to the department to set itself to a constructive programme and not to overbusy itself perfecting the staff for superintendence has become imperatively necessary, and that reminder cannot be an effective one unless it is asked to mend its ways by effecting all-round retrenchments in all the sections of the agricultural service in Bengal. I cannot help insisting on the reduction of travelling expenses and other charges and abolition of the temporary establishment, for which a provision of Rs. 35,000 has been made. The permanent staff is too large to require any temporary establishment if only proper adjustment of duties is made. No other department of the State abounds in so many officials even without whom the department would not be anything else than what it is now. I am a mufassal man. I have always taken personal interest in agricultural activities and I have spoken from personal knowledge. I ask for a small percentage of reduction of Rs. 55,000 only, and I have shown the head of account under which this reduction can be effected with advantage. Sir, I now hope that the Council will whole-heartedly support me in my motion for reduction.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I rise to oppose this motion and I rise to oppose it for the following reasons:—we are often crying in the Council for shortage of money on transferred subjects. Our continuous complaints had been in the Council that we got very little money for the department over which we have got the full and absolute control and when any money is given we come forward with the argument that it is to be swallowed up in this particular way and that the money ought to be cut down. I have listened to the learned speech of the hon'ble member, but I have not been able to find out any substance in it. The learned mover says that " the department is only in an experimental stage and the department has got very little to record so far as its success is concerned." Sir, if that is so, that is all the more reason why the department should have more money in order that it may develop itself. Further, the mover has said that as much as half the money is used up by the "Superintendence " and that the department ought to look more to other work for the people. I think the attention of the learned mover must have been drawn to the new schemes which the Hon'ble Minister in charge has formulated and which he has placed before the public. Just one year has now elapsed. Whatever might have been the arguments against the old policy of the Government, but so far as the present policy of the Minister in charge is concerned, it is absolutely clear that the Hon'ble Minister is an Indian and he knows all the necessities of the poor raiyats of the province. His own scheme would go to show that he cares more for the raiyats than for anybody else. In fact, he has tried his best to popularise this department which under the old régime was nothing but a certain department carried on under the secretariat principles. But the agricultural policy which the Hon'ble Minister will pursue in future would go to show that it is more for the interest of the raiyats than for anybody else. Then further, Sir, the very fact that there are not many demonstration farms, that there are not many agricultural schools in this particular province, which would benefit the raiyats and the children of the raiyats, it is absolutely necessary that we should strengthen the hands of the Hon'ble Minister. It is absurd to contend that the Minister has done no work and at the same time to say, we will not give him any money; it is wasting. I could understand the position if the mover could suggest a constructive programme, that is, as to how the money ought to be spent; that is, the particular constructive scheme which the Hon'ble Minister ought to follow. In fact, at the present stage, we should have as much money as possible in the transferred subjects and come forward with definite schemes so that the Hon'ble Minister may carry out the schemes. But if the money is refused, there is absolutely no guarantee that it would come to transferred subjects. There is absolutely no certainty, where the money will go. The best thing would be to have the money under the transferred subject and come forward with a definite scheme, so that the money could be spent for the benefit of the raiyats.

With these few words, I oppose the motion.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: I am sorry to find that none of the speakers took any care to ascertain how this money was going to be spent. I do not think that any of them know that most of this money will be spent in propaganda work. The results of the experiments that are being made should be made known by means of propaganda work. I think this is very necessary. I have something to do with agricultural work at Howrah. I am the honorary secretary of the Howrah Agricultural Association and I have found from my own experience that in this country whenever any thing is going to be introduced there is always serious objection, and that is also a difficulty in the way of spreading agricultural knowledge and also as to how it can be scientifically developed. In the agricultural associations, we find great difficulty in forming a quorum and the members do not take any active part in the spreading of agricultural knowledge. Therefore, it is very necessary specially in the mufassal that propaganda work should be done so that the agriculturists may know how to scientifically develop their land. In these days, it is absolutely necessary that there should be paid officers to go about the mufassal and instruct the people in scientific agriculture. It is extremely unfortunate that all these motions for reductions have been moved. I do not think that any of the grants should be curtailed.

I therefore oppose the motion.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I ask the Council to reject this motion for a lump reduction in the Budget of the Agricultural Department. In moving the grant, I have quoted figures which show that the other major provinces spend just about double what Bengal spends on this department which is of vital importance to the welfare of the millions of cultivators in Bengal. Any reduction proposed would cripple the activities of the department. I need not now dilate on the importance of the work which is being done. I have done so, so many times in this Council, and I believe that most of the members are alive to the benefits which it is conferring on the cultivators of the province. I submit that any curtailment of its activities will mean a sure loss to the cultivators of the province. The mover has given no good reasons for making a reduction. I have dealt with most of the points he has raised in moving this vote. The Rs. 1,20,000 to which he has pointed covers the working cost of all the agricultural farms including the Dacca and Chinsura farms and is thus needed for the work of demonstrations and propaganda which I regard as one of the most important functions of the department.

I ask the Council to reject this motion.

Mr. W. L. TRAVERS: As an agriculturist who lives in the mufassal, I should like to associate myself with the opposition to this amendment. As far as I can make out the arguments advanced by the mover

are to the effect that the officers of the department are out of touch with agriculturists. But the real reason why the officers of the department are not in touch with the agriculturists is that there are not quite enough of them. The money provided is hopelessly inadequate. If the Council were to double or treble the grant, I would support it. There ought to be a far larger number of officers in the department, then they will be able to be in touch with agriculturists.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I have one thing to ask. Is it permissible for any member to speak after the Member in charge has replied? If it is allowed in one case, it should be allowed in other cases too, I think.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following amendment, standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, was deemed to be withdrawn as he was absent:—

" That the demand for Rs. 34,800 for the salaries of six gazetted officers under '34C.—Co-operative Credit' be reduced by omitting therefrom the provision for the Assistant Registrar for Chittagong Division."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move " that the demand for Rs. 1,34,500 under the head ' 34 C.—Co-operative Credit—Allowance ' be reduced to Rs. 1,00,000."

I know what would be the fate of my motion as my friends in this Council have displayed extraordinary care, learning and energy in discussing the Budget of the year. I was surprised to find, when I was referring to certain figures, which were available in the printed book circulated to all of us, that they made very little use of the book. I say that it is absolutely futile to refer to figures which are to be found in the printed book because the book has already been lost sight of in the course of the last few days. All the same, it is only proper that I should point out and draw the attention of this Council to what I have noticed. I find, under the head Hill allowance, Rs. 500 has been estimated against Rs. 147, the actual expenditure in 1920. In 1920-21, it was Rs. 167 and in 1920-21 (revised estimate) Rs. 200. I fail to understand what justifies the Government in gradually increasing the demand. I request the Council to refuse the Hill allowance altogether.

Then again House rent, etc., have been budgeted at Rs. 18,000 against Rs. 11,048, actuals of 1919-20, and Rs. 14,259, the actuals of 1920-21.

Rupees 1,16,000 has been budgeted for the travelling allowance against Rs. 92,865, the actuals of 1920-21. Basing my argument on these figures, which explain themselves, I request the Council to reduce the demand to Rs. 1,00,000.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The head " 34C.—Co-operative Credit—Allowances " includes three separate items. First, there is a provision of Rs. 1,16,000 for travelling allowance and it must be remembered that the Co-operative Department is a regulating department. Its main functions are to inspect, audit and supervise the co-operative societies in the province, which involve constant touring on the part of every officer of the department. The controlling staff consists of 1 Registrar, 1 Deputy-Registrar, 4 Assistant Registrars in charge of administrative divisions, and 1 Personal Assistant to the Registrar; and the subordinate staff is composed of 3 divisional auditors, 65 inspectors and 40 auditors. Besides these there are no less than 78 honorary organisers and 33 supervisors whose travelling expenses are borne by Government. The duties of these officers can only be performed by constant touring in the mufassal. I submit that the provision made is not extravagant in view of the large number of officers concerned, although it exceeds the revised estimate by only Rs. 6,000 as the number of officers has been increased during the year and the railway fare is shortly to be raised.

The provision for Hill allowance is only Rs. 500. I may remind the Council that there are many co-operative societies in Darjeeling, and it is essential that the Registrar should maintain supervision over them. Apart from the so-called exodus, the Registrar must spend a certain time in the Darjeeling district, and while he goes there he takes with him his tour clerk and one or two orderlies; some time one other officer also accompanies him.

As regards the provision of house rent and other allowances, I can only say that the amount is barely sufficient to pay the sanctioned charges. The major portion of the grant is for the rent of offices occupied by the officers of the department. I, therefore, ask the Council to reject the motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY: I beg to withdraw the motion standing in my name.

The following amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

" That the demand for Rs. 19,04,000 under head ' 34.—Agriculture ' be reduced by Rs. 1,80,000."

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I move " that the demand for Rs. 19,04,000 be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

It will be seen, on the face of it, that it is a motion to arouse discussion on this most important department of the transferred branch of dyarchy. Considerable criticism has been elicited by the previous motions, and I thought that the mover who preceded me would relieve me of the duty of dwelling on this subject, but my friend the gallant

Lieutenant has thought it fit to entrust the motion to my hand. Practically his motion and my motion are identical. I shall begin therefore by stating—as I said on a previous occasion when moving a motion with reference to public health—that this is not moved in a spirit of hostility to the Hon'ble Minister in any way, because he is one of us and we are all pledged to support him in the successful carrying out of his administration, but, at the same time, we cannot sit here mute and dumb because we have got a man of our skin presiding over the destimes of this department. I think it is necessary to point out that it is more the method and the system that is at fault than the Hon'ble Minister himself.

I will be found from an examination of the figures that the cost of this department has been steadily rising during the last three years. I find in 1918-19, the cost stood at Rs. 14,26,000, in 1919-20, it was Rs. 16,47,000 and this year, the revised estimate is Rs. 20,82,000 against the Budget estimate of Rs. 21,32,000. The revised estimate is for Rs. 20,82,000 and the Budget estimate of next year is placed at Rs. 21,30,000, thus showing an increase over the revised estimate for the current year. As far as I can gather from the detailed civil estimates, I find, after careful examination, that the cost of this establishment has risen steadily from year to year, whereas the provision for works, that is to say, works for demonstration in connection with the demonstration farm, agricultural school and other works of utility for which this department was brought into existence by Lord Curzon, amounts to about Rs. 95,000. I think I am correct in quoting the figures from the statement—if I am wrong, I hope I shall be corrected. It will be seen, therefore, that there has not been much progress in the establishment of dairy farms, demonstration farms or agricultural schools and other things which we expected, and which we all know to be the concomitants of this Department. If we examine the Civil List, we find that there has grown a magnificent army of officers in this Department. We have got 1 Director of Agriculture, 9 Deputy Directors and experts drawing salaries up to Rs. 1,500. Again, there are 15 superintendents of agriculture and assistant experts on salaries ranging from Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, not to speak of others.

I do not want to weary the patience of this House by giving a long list of officers in the Department, but I do not think that it may be said with satisfaction and pride by the Government that the work which is carried on by this Department is commensurate with the outlay on its establishment. Further, I think, the attention of the Hon'ble Minister may be drawn to the fact that there is complaint outside as to the serious waste in this department. It is understood that the auditors of the Accountant General's office have drawn attention to a long list of irergularities noticed in his examination, and, I believe, he must have recieved a note from the Accountant-General, Bengal, on this subject. I have put certain interrellations on this question.

Having regard to these facts, I think it is necessary to impress upon the Hon'ble Minister the fact that the way in which this Department is at present conducted requires to be thoroughly overhauled, and I think it ought to be reconstructed on a basis, which will yield the greatest good of the greatest number and not merely bring grist to the mill, that is, not merely increase the already fat salaries of the officers of the Department. I wish to say that the Hon'ble Minister, as far as I have been able to gather from his activities in this Department, is equally anxious, as some of us, to promote this great industry which is the mainstay of Bengal, I mean agriculture. But I am afraid that single-handed he cannot do anything. After all, he is hemmed in by the bureaucracy, notwithstanding his sincere desire and earnest endeavours to move in the right direction. I therefore think that the debate, which arises in this Council from time to time, and especially on this occasion, will be fruitful of beneficial results.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I have been surprised beyond measure by the fact, as shown by my friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, that out of Rs. 20,00,000 spent in this Department, only Rs. 95,000 is spent on works and Rs. 19,00,000 on supervision, direction, etc. This state of things would not be tolerated in any other country. I did not want to speak upon any one of these motions, because I thought that this being a transferred department (and agriculture is one of the most vital subjects in this country), I should not stand in the way of the Minister having any amount of money he likes. But money should be spent for the good of the country, not for the good merely of certain officers.

To a question asked by me, the Hon'ble Minister was pleased to say that he would like to have agricultural farms run on business lines so that people might see that profit might be made of agriculture and not mere loss. As it now stands, the agricultural farms are standing examples to the people that advanced agriculture can be carried on only at a great loss. The department does not, I submit, exist for proving that advanced agriculture can be carried on at a loss, but, as it is, it is a department existing for the demonstration of the fact that no advanced agriculture should be taken by the people. We have been told of many things that this department has done, that there are agricultural farms here, agricultural farms there: there are so many Deputy Directors, superintendents, etc., but I must say that the people of this country hitherto have derived very little benefit from them. This sum of money should be well spent and I say, I for one, should be prepared to give another Rs. 20,00,000 to the Minister for Agriculture, provided the money is well spent. But if the money is simply misspent as it is, I shall oppose the grant.

Mr. W. L. TRAVERS: As far as I understand, the intention of the mover in moving the resolution is to elicit information about the work

of the Agricultural Department. Had he taken the trouble to read the many interesting publications of this department he would perhaps have learnt where the money which he now seeks to reduce is going.

The mover has talked about a magnificent army of officers under this department. May I remind him of the magnificent army of agriculturists in this province who number somewhat like forty millions of people? In comparison with this, is not the number of officers employed under this department hopelessly and entirely inadequate? At least in any other country in the world it would be considered so, and yet the mover proposes to reduce this amount! I cannot see any force in his argument at all. I would like to remind, if I may do so, the members of the House of an article—a very illuminating article—by Mr. Coventry when he was Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India. In that article he drew a parallel between the state of things as they are in India at present and as they were in the United States of America. After the conclusion of the war between the North and the South, the South was a poor country, the people were uneducated and illiterate; the North, on the other hand, was a large industrial country and was fully able to provide for the education of the South. But it did not do so. I did not adopt that policy at all. Instead, it devoted large sums of money towards the improvement of agriculture in the South with the result that 25 years later the South not only wanted education but was willing and able to pay for it. I say, as Mr. Coventry said, that the condition in Bengal at the present time is the same, but only it is accentuated. Hence I ask the Council not to give its approval to this motion for the reduction of expenditure on this department.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMAD: I had no mind to take any part in the Budget debate, so up to this time I said nothing. But to-day, hearing something said about the Agricultural Department, I am constrained to make a few remarks. It is admitted that the administration of the department in respect of its officers is a little topheavy, but the Hon'ble Minister is impressed with this fact and has promised to increase the number of actual workers who do the spade work, namely, the demonstrators. He has moved in the right direction and we are confident he will do his best in this respect. We have also impressed upon him the necessity of imparting agricultural education and I am glad to say that he has moved heart and soul in that matter and has already promulgated a scheme which he has circulated inviting public opinion thereon. He is trying his best to adopt a scheme by which the young sons of the cultivators of Bengal will be given instruction in agriculture so that they may profit by the results obtained at experimental and demonstration farms.

Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur has said that the department is working at a loss; when it should be the duty of that department to point out how agriculture can be made a profitable business, but how

is it that the Agricultural Department whatever it is doing, is doing at a loss? If he had taken into consideration certain particular facts, he would be convinced that to go on with this work, it is necessary that it should be worked at a loss, at the preliminary stage at any rate. It is not ordinary agriculture. It has to find out by observation and experiment the best seed by means of careful selection and other ways, for instance, by cross-breeding. An ordinary cultivator grows only that variety of crop which gives him the heaviest yield at a particular expenditure. But what is done at the agricultural farms? There different seeds are selected and grown side by side at an exorbitant cost to find out a variety of crops which will give the largest yield and for this purpose they should not be guided by rules of arithmetic—whether they do it at Rs. 5 or Rs. 2. Whatever may be the cost, the result achieved is valuable. By thus carefully selecting and growing side by side different crops, the department finds out what crop is most valuable for particular districts, at the same time demonstrating to the cultivators in the neighbourhood the utility of that particular crop for that particular district. To do this, the expenditure must be very great. The department demonstrates as well as improves the seed by cross-breeding. This excellent work is being done at the Dacca farm. We have all heard that there is a variety of paddy called *Indrasail* (winter paddy) and *Kataktara* (*Aus* paddy), and at the Dacca farm they are trying to cross-breed these two varieties of paddy so that there may come, out of this combination, a variety which may be ripe for the sickle in the month of *Kartic*. That is exactly the time when it is not yet too dry for winter paddy as also not too wet for *Aus* paddy. With this object in view, they are doing excellent work. They have sown several fields with *Kataktara* and also with *Indrasail* paddy and by careful selection and elimination of different male and female pollens and by dusting one with the other, they have succeeded in developing a particular crop which is almost a cross between the two—this is a very useful work no doubt. For these purposes, expenses must be very heavy and we cannot expect the outturn in the shape of crops to be according to expenditure.

Turning to the Co-operative Department, we find that the cost of establishment is heavier, but you do not consider the fact that there is a vast amount of money invested in the rural societies by the central banks. These central banks have to depend upon Government supervision for the realisation of their dues. These societies are regularly supervised and their accounts are audited periodically; otherwise central banks could not have any confidence in them and would not venture to spend money for the improvement of the co-operative movement in the interior. So the amount of money that is being spent is spent usefully.

With these remarks, I strongly oppose the motion.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: I live within four miles of Chinsura Experimental Farm and have paid many a visit to the place and gathered most useful information.

I have observed great enthusiasm on the part of the staff, who spare either efforts nor pains to explain in detail the various new methods adopted there. I was specially struck with the reorganisation, of the seed-distribution scheme. I found seeds are posted to distant places and reports were shown to me of satisfactory germination. I thoroughly approve of the reorganisation of agricultural association on co-operative lines. I was also struck by the work of the fruit-culture department; they have brought in seeds from Ceylon, they have grown excellent samples of *papaya* fruits. In fact I brought some young plants from there and they are flourishing.

No great boon can be conferred on raiyats than collective purchase of manures and implements and collective sale of their produce. This experiment was tried among fishermen in Chilka Lake. Their catches were sold to dealers on co-operative basis and brought in more money and ensured quick payments.

I notice in the papers that earnest endeavour is made by the Agricultural Department to impart agricultural education, which is, no doubt, a good thing to the raiyats if their boys can only follow it all right.

I gathered a good deal of information regarding sericulture when I was in Kurseong last year. The officer in charge explained the method of rearing silkworms. I was pleased to learn that the Sericultural department apart from its demonstration has made good profit out of selling healthy cocoons.

On the whole, the Agricultural Department under our popular Minister has fared very well indeed considering his new portfolio and the red-tapism which pervaded the whole department before he joined. I think he deserves great credit for popularising his department, for making things very interesting to all of us.

We have just now heard high sounding speeches about the vital importance of the department—the mainstay of the raiyats—the nation-preserving department and all the rest of the catch-penny phrases, but unfortunately none of the speakers told us what troubles they had taken to visit the various centres of agricultural activities under Government agency and what efforts are made by Government to make the raiyats take more interest in scientific agriculture.

I oppose the motion as the grounds given by the mover are more imaginary than real.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: I rise to say something from my practical experience as to what this Department of Agriculture has been doing in the district of Rajshahi. In fact this department has been doing much towards the improvement of agriculture in my district. Probably you will remember that last year I protested

against the appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture. Probably you will also remember that I expressed the opinion that instead of appointing a Deputy Director of Agriculture, it would be better to appoint more demonstrators, men who would be able to go through the districts and show the cultivators the practical results of their demonstration. However, it is a different matter altogether. But it is beyond doubt that the department has been improving agriculture of the country in various directions. I may be permitted, Sir, to cite an instance by way of illustration. This year, I was invited by the district agricultural officer to pay a visit to his farm. On seeing the results achieved by him from his experiment, I arranged to have 10 cottas of land of mine sown with the seeds of potato supplied by him and under his supervision, because I have little time to supervise and see all these things; and you will be surprised to learn that I obtained about 30 maunds of potato from the land. Another instance; I met a big cultivator the other day who told me that he had practically an income of a Deputy Magistrate from his land. I asked him what he meant. He told me that he had 12 bighas of land and the cultivation of each bigha yielded a profit of about Rs. 150; so he obtained a net income of Rs. 1,800 from his land and therefore he could reasonably think himself to be better than a Deputy Magistrate. So it is beyond doubt that this department is doing very good practical work. The Hon'ble Minister has taken a good deal of trouble and I again request him that more demonstrators may be appointed and sent throughout the districts, so that the poor agriculturists may derive the advantage of their demonstration.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I must congratulate my friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur for bringing in this motion in order to enable us to have some opportunities of discussing the policy which the Hon'ble the Minister in charge ought to adopt so far as this department is concerned. Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has pointed out that the cost of this department is gradually on the increase, and I think that is what it should be. In fact, my friend Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur also said that he would like to see the expenses of the department doubled or trebled. We all know that there are two stages so far as this department is concerned. First, there is the theoretical portion—the experimental stage—when the officers or the experts are to find out what seeds should be sown and what should be the actual seed which should be used for a particular kind of land. That is the theoretical portion of the work and it depends upon the experts and the officials who are engaged in the experiment. Then comes the practical portion—the results of these experiments are to be carried into practice—and that is to be done by the demonstrators. The Hon'ble the Minister in charge has taken up the practical portion of the work in right earnest. This Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur also admits, but his complaint is that the Hon'ble Minister is in the midst of the

bureaucracy and, therefore, the Rai Bahadur apprehends that he might not be able to give effect to his intentions however sincere he may be. But I would also ask the Rai Bahadur to consider that there is another bureaucrat like Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur against the official bureaucrat so that the Minister in charge is between two fires. If the policy of the Minister is against the Council, there is the Council headed by the Rai Bahadur to correct the Minister and see that he drops the policy that he wishes to carry out; so there need be no serious apprehension so far as this point is concerned; therefore, it seems that this is not the time to pass a vote of censure by decreasing the demand by Rs. 1,000. Only one year has elapsed and we have not had sufficient time to be in a position to see what that policy is, and how far we shall be able to carry it out against the so-called bureaucracy.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: It is unfortunate that my friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, should have brought forward this motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: It is more unfortunate that the speaker speaks so low that we cannot hear him.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: All right, in future I shall speak louder. The two Rai Bahadurs, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur and Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, say that no practical work that they can see is being done by the department but simply men are appointed on high salaries. But, Sir, is it the Public Works Department that they will be able to see work done in the shape of huge buildings erected, unless they take any active interest in it? The activities of the Agricultural Department are concentrated on the work of teaching the people how to cultivate their lands. When Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur was moving his motion, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur said, "hear, hear," that means he agrees in whatever Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur said. Not a single point was raised, not a single word was said by them in the way of suggesting a better means of spending the money allotted to this department. Are the Government of Bengal bankrupt, that the work taken up by the department to gradually teach the people to cultivate the land to the best advantage, should be cut down and the department run dry? However, the department has been started and there is a person with knowledge and experience as its head and it has done a great deal in teaching the people in almost every district to cultivate their lands in a scientific way. Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has said that perhaps the Minister has received a report from the Accountant-General, Bengal, to the effect that in some districts the auditor has reported that the work is not properly done. This very fact goes to show that there should be more auditors—

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I should like to correct the speaker on this point. The auditor is not appointed by the department, but by the Accountant General, Bengal.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: That fact shows the colossal ignorance of the Rai Bahadur as to the working of the department. I have personal knowledge of these departments—auditors are appointed by the Co-operative Department in Howrah and Hooghly and I emphatically say that that very fact goes to show that my friend has absolutely no knowledge of the department and has put in this motion simply to say something.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I have already dealt with the detailed objections that have been taken to the veterinary, agricultural and co-operative budgets. Against a general proposal for reduction such as has been made in this motion, I take my stand on the main ground that the budgets of these departments have not merely been framed with strict economy but have in fact been cut down to the barest possible minimum. I may point out that the proportion spent on what the Rai Bahadur called works of utility is all that was granted to me. I should have been able to spend very much more if the money had been available, and I have already informed the Council of the schemes which I propose to take up if money is provided. As regards Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur's statement that the department has not benefited the agriculturist, I need only refer to what has been said by members of this Council who are in touch with the cultivating classes and know what has been done by the introduction of improved seeds, manures and methods of cultivation and I would ask the Rai Bahadur to read the reports and other publications of the department.

It will, I am sure, be admitted that all these departments are doing work of the greatest practical value to the agriculturists who form the bulk of the population of Bengal. I ask the Council to show its recognition and appreciation of that good work by voting the demand in full, and rejecting this motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 19,04,000 for expenditure, under head " 34.—Agriculture " was then put and agreed to.

35.—Industries.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I move " that a sum of Rs. 12,33,000 be granted for expenditure under the head ' 35.—Industries.' "

This grant includes the provision for two reserved departments, namely, Rs. 24,000 for the Electric Adviser and his staff, and

Rs. 3,11,000 for the cinchona plantations, and the balance of Rs. 8,81,000 is the voted expenditure under the transferred head "Industries." The details of this sum of Rs. 8,81,000 will be found at the foot of page 147 of the Budget estimates. It will be seen that the total grant under "Direction and Industrial Development" amounts to Rs. 4,06,000 against Rs. 3,88,000 in the revised estimate. Under "Director and other Gazetted Officers" we provide for an Industrial Engineer who will be appointed immediately. The need of this officer is very urgent. The Director of Industries is receiving numerous applications for the advice and assistance of an Engineer from all parts of the province. The Industrial Commission thought that two Industrial Engineers would be required for Bengal, but for the present we consider that one engineer will be sufficient.

Then we have made a lump provision for the development of Industries amounting to Rs. 25,000 and from this it is proposed to meet the expenditure in connection with the British Empire Exhibition which will be held in London in 1924. Under " Industrial Education " there is an increase of Rs. 1,30,000. It will be seen that the bulk of this comes under the head " Miscellaneous " at the foot of page 152 of the Budget estimate and includes Rs. 81,000 towards the cost of Kanchrapara Technical School. I do not think that I need go into details regarding this school. The Council is aware that we are proceeding with our scheme for the training of apprentices both in Calcutta and at Kanchrapara. The inauguration of the scheme is eagerly awaited not only by the apprentices but by the general public. Then there is an increase of Rs. 25,000 against the head "Mining Instruction in the coal fields." The subject of mining instruction has been neglected in the past, but we are now taking steps to give effect to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Macpherson Committee. The buildings are in course of erection and I hope that a mining instructor will be appointed very shortly who will be able to carry on his duties under temporary arrangements until the buildings are completed.

Finally, there is a provision of Rs. 61,000 for the Fisheries Department. I am aware that the work of this department has been severely criticised and I admit that much of the criticism is justified. It is not possible to point to any great benefits which the department has been able to achieve, but I would remind the Council that it has been in existence only since 1911, and that so far it has been engaged mainly on research work which must necessarily precede any practical achievement. Since 1917, it has been greatly handicapped by want of staff. The sanctioned superior staff of the department consists of 1 Director and 2 Superintendents. In 1917, Mr. Mohsin, one of the Superintendents, resigned his appointment; in 1918, Mr. Southwell, the Director, broke down in health and went on long leave ultimately retiring from the department. Mr. Das, the other Superintendent, died in September, 1919, and Dr. Baini Pershad, Mr. Mohsin's successor, who was appointed

to officiate for Mr. Southwell, left the department for a better post. Up to the present we have not been able owing to want of funds to recruit a Director of Fisheries, and the superior staff now consists of one Superintendent and an officiating Superintendent. I am convinced that a properly organised Fisheries Department, under a qualified expert with practical experience, could do work of immense benefit to Bengal. I suggest that the Council should give me an opportunity of substantiating this opinion. I ask them to vote the grant for the Fisheries Department and I undertake to appoint a qualified Director who will re-organise the department and place it on a sound basis. Some patience will be necessary, but I am satisfied that within a reasonable period, it will be possible to show practical results of real importance. I ask the Council to vote the full grant of Rs. 12,33,000.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): I ought to state that there are 19 amendments and only two hours to discuss them in, so I think I shall give six minutes for the discussion of each motion, three minutes for the mover and three for the Government member to reply.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: In the absence of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, I move "that the demand of Rs. 1,07,000 for clerks and servants under '36C' be reduced by Rs. 7,000."

That puts me to considerable difficulty. It will only enable me to give expression to my views in terse and brief sentences. I think when we cannot locate a grant it is something like suicide to try to suggest reduction in items in our nation-building departments, because if the grant is refused the money is dislocated and goes within the bigger jaws of the other department. So I rather think we ought to keep the money with us and make it over to our Hon'ble Minister so that he may be able to make use of it hereafter, instead of handing it over to persons from whose jaws there is no return. In this particular matter, however, I should say that this is only in the nature of bringing certain facts to the notice of the Minister. I am one of those who do realise that our Minister has paid considerable attention to agriculture in Western Bengal. Before him Western Bengal was practically neglected; since he came here he has done much in a general way, and he is trying his best as far as Western Bengal is concerned. He has taken up several important matters and has made inquiries in every direction. Shortly after he joined he did me the honour of consulting me about some vacant lands close to Calcutta where he thought dairy and agriculture farms might be started, and where boys might be taught so that they could earn their own living by investing Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 and developing these lands. I am also really grateful to him for another thing. I am a Bengali; he has recognised the qualifications of a worthy Bengali and has made him Commissioner of Excise. But still I must say that the ways in which the Department of Industries is carrying on its work

are such as are susceptible of great improvement. I cannot find out what their policy is, and I do not know what is meant by it. The work is getting on; we do not expect anybody to come along and turn everything in another direction. I hope, however, whoever might be the Minister and those who make the largest amount of criticism—I myself may be one of them—should take notice of these things and gradually take steps in order to improve the situation. In the meantime, I would draw attention to item 309, of which Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has given notice for a reduction of the demand for clerks and servants by Rs. 7,000. I am not one of those who believe that the pay of the clerks should be reduced, but I believe that their number ought to be reduced. There are 94 clerks and 62 servants in this department, and you will be pleased to see these total 156; I do not think there are so many clerks and servants in a second class District office. There are other items in this particular department which require close examination, and if the Hon'ble Minister will look into the matter, and rectify it, that is what we want. It is with this intention that I have brought this matter to his notice, and I trust he will look into it.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The demand for Rs. 1,07,000 under " 35C " for the clerks and servants is required to meet the pay of the sanctioned staff. I may point out that it includes the clerks and servants employed not only under the Director and Deputy-Director of Industries but also the office staff of the Industrial Chemist, the Industrial Intelligence Officer and the Inspector of Technical and Industrial Institutions and of the five Superintendents of Industries. I am, however, informed that out of 94 clerks shown in the third column of page 148 of the Budget estimates, some 20 posts have not yet been filled up. While, therefore I oppose the motion on the ground that the grant is only sufficient to meet the pay of the sanctioned staff, I undertake to examine the necessity for filling up the remaining posts, and if it is found that any reduction is possible it will be made. I submit that it is not advisable to reduce the sanctioned staff without examination and therefore I ask the Council to reject the motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I withdraw this motion, but still I say that the Hon'ble Minister is wrong, and that is why I have drawn his attention to this matter.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move " that the sum of Rs. 1,14,280 which it is proposed to grant under head ' Direction—Salaries and Establishments' be reduced by Rs. 12,000."

My motion covers those items to which Babu Surendra Nath Mallik has referred in his speech. Hence in view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave to withdraw it.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

In the absence of the member, the following amendment, standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 22,000 under head '35C.—Direction—Allowance' be reduced to Rs. 11,000."

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: In the absence of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, I move "that the demand under 'Rents, Rates and Taxes' for Rs. 33,000 be reduced by Rs. 12,000 for the house rent in Free School Street."

Here again, I speak from personal knowledge and ask the Hon'ble Minister to look into this himself. I would also ask him not to depend on written reports that come from subordinate officers. This Rs. 33,000 is only part of the rent of 48, Free School Street. I have been informed that this house rent was fixed on the plan long before the house was built; apart from this, Rs. 4,000 is the entire rent and only a portion of it is paid by other departments located in the same building. I can personally show the Nawab Sahib if he will do me the honour to come with me; there are three flats, the ground floor belongs to nobody, nobody occupies it; as far as the other two flats are concerned, there is ample accommodation in them to ride a cycle through the place; I can take the Hon'ble Minister over the place and show him that Rs. 12,000 a year could easily be realised by subletting one of the flats. It is a huge building and a great waste of money is going on there. I draw the Hon'ble Nawab Sahib's attention to this matter, and I hope my action in bringing this matter to notice will be appreciated in the spirit in which it is made. I have brought the matter forward in the hope that the Hon'ble Nawab Sahib will look into it, and arrange to let out the flat and so effect some saving.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: It is impossible to make any reduction in the provision for meeting the rent of the office of the Director of Industries in Free School Street. The building has been taken on 5 years' lease and we have got no choice but to comply with the terms of that lease. I may explain that the rent of the building for 100 square foot is less than half of the rent which we should have to pay if an office had been hired in the business quarters round the Writers' Buildings. The reduction from the revised estimate is due to the fact that other officers whose offices are located in the same building have been debited with a share of the rent. As we are legally bound to pay the full rent of the building I ask the Council to reject the motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I withdraw this motion, subject to his promise that he will look into this matter.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I move " that the demand of Rs. 2,51,000 for ' Direction—Director of Industries (Detailed Account No. 35C.—)' be reduced by Rs. 16,000."

It is quite apparent to the House that I want to bring to the notice of the House how things are being done in this particular matter, and to show that things are not properly done. With regard to this, I may tell you that the method of recruitment is very objectionable. I have the Industrial Commission's Report here; the Deputy-Director is a gentleman named Mr. A. T. Weston; he has been appointed on Rs. 1,800 a month. Under clause 314 of the Industrial Commission's Report, the Deputy-Director is to receive a salary beginning at Rs. 1,000 and rising up to Rs. 1,500, but he was given at once Rs. 1,800. This is the state of affairs that I want to bring to the notice of the Nawab Sahib. I do not know whether he has any hand in the matter, but he should consider these things and see what retrenchment he can otherwise effect.

Article 316 of the recommendations of the Industrial Commission states that the work of chemists in the provincial departments will be mainly of an analytical character, and men with adequate qualifications can be obtained on salaries of Rs. 300 rising to Rs. 500. But this gentleman has been appointed at once on a salary of Rs. 1,000 a month. There is an Engineer and he is designated as an Industrial Engineer on Rs. 1,000 a month. I refer to article 334, in which it is laid down: the initial salary of men recruited under the conditions proposed above need not, on a pre-war basis, exceed Rs. 450 a month; they should be on two years' probation and should be eligible, on confirmation, for appointment as Industrial Engineers in provincial departments of industries. But we find that this gentleman has been appointed at once on a salary of Rs. 1,000. Notice should be taken of this matter.

Then again, there is an officer on a pay of Rs. 1,750 a month designated as Industrial Intelligence Officer. This post has been abolished but the demand is still there; on scrutiny it will be excluded or possibly instead of excluding it, it will be kept in just the same way as money is kept in the police budget for being utilised subsequently. I therefore bring these things to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister so that he might consider whether this department is giving good value for the money that is being spent on it. That is the whole question. Here we have got clerks on Rs. 500. Nobody cares about spending other people's money and they are not very zealous about it. Just fancy that there are 92 clerks in one sub-department and I think that this staff is quite enough for a whole Secretariat. Nobody cares to look into it. Mr. Meek (A voice: "Dr. Meek") is very meek I should say for the post he holds. He has been in charge of this Department for some time but God alone knows what he has done for this department. He ought to be sent back

to the Education Department where he will be of some use. Put a man who knows the thing and let him have a grasp of the whole subject and then let the department go on and the work to be carried on. That is the best way of doing it. I do not mention these things in the way of captious criticism but I mention them so that the Hon'ble the Minister might look into these things. It is no one hut an outsider who has got an insight into the affairs that can put him on the track. I know that a good deal of money is being wasted and it is my earnest wish and I entreat him that he would look into this matter. That is the spirit in which I speak on this matter.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The demand under Industries—Direction—Director and other gazetted officers—shows an increase over the revised estimate for the current year of over Rs. 14,000. This increase is due to the recent appointment of an Industrial Chemist and the appointment of an Industrial Engineer which will be filled up shortly. The need for an Industrial Chemist was very pressing. Many of the industrial developments, which appear to be most promising for Bengal, depend upon chemical research. For the post, we have secured the services of an Indian chemist who combines high scientific qualifications with practical experience of business. The post of Industrial Engineer has been advertised, applications have been received from highly-qualified candidates and the appointment will shortly be made. In making these appointments, we are following the recommendations of the Industrial Commission which insisted strongly on the necessity for these posts. Mr. Weston was appointed before my time, but I may say he was drawing high pay in the Cossipur gun factory and his qualifications were such that Government considered it advisable to secure his services and this could not have been done on less than the pay granted to him. As regards the grant for travelling allowance, it exceeds the revised estimate by only Rs. 2,200. As the travelling expenses of these two new officers will have to be met from this sum, I submit that the estimate is as low as we could possibly put it. I ask the Council to reject this motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Subject to the same conditions, I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendment was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the sum of Rs. 60,000 which it is proposed to grant under head 'Industrial Development—Calcutta Research Tannery—Contingencies' be reduced by Rs. 30,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur being absent, the following amendment was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,08,000 under head '35C.—Industrial Development—Calcutta Research Tannery, ' be reduced by Rs. 25,000 being the lump provision for development of industries."

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: In the absence of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, I move "that the demand for house rent and other allowances for the Inspector of Technical Schools and Industries, be refused."

Here again, I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister to certain facts. Mr. Everett is an officer of the Indian Educational Service. Before he was appointed Superintendent of Technical Education, he was a Professor in the Civil Engineering College in 1909, and his name still appears in the list of Professors of that College. But what has he to do with this department, God Almighty alone knows.

Then there are five Superintendents on a salary of, I think, Rs. 200 rising to Rs. 700 who have been appointed in connection with industries. On the one hand, these are the people who are called Superintendents and on the other hand, there is a recommendation of the Industrial Commission that the Deputy-Directors of Industries should inspect the technical schools. That is the recommendation contained in article 331; and if that is so, there is no reason why Mr. Everett should be kept on there for that purpose. He is doing nothing there as both of his functions have ceased; so there is no reason for his getting the allowance and as a matter of fact he should not be there and he ought to go back to the Civil Engineering College (A voice: "His pay is non-voted"). His pay may be non-voted, but the question is whether he should be retained there or whether he should be sent back to the Education Department. I mention these things in order to put the Hon'ble the Minister on the track and let him follow and help us.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The item of house rent and allowances to which the mover objects was sanctioned ten years ago by the Secretary of State and since then, they have been drawn by the Inspector of Technical and Industrial Institutions. We have recently proposed a consolidated pay for that officer, but until the sanction of the Secretary of State is received, he is legally entitled to his present allowances. If the amount required to meet these allowances is refused by the Council, Government will be liable to a suit, and the ultimate result will undoubtedly be an actual increase in expenditure. The Inspector of Technical and Industrial Institutions is an officer of long experience and he has very responsible duties to perform, which could not be adequately performed by any other officer of the department. It is essential that he should be adequately remunerated and ask the Council to reject this motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: This matter only requires mentioning and I earnestly hope that the Hon'ble the Minister will let this amount of Rs. 25,000 remain there. From a Reuter's telegram of the 13th February, we find that it has been decided to postpone this exhibition till 1924. Therefore there will be no need for this money during 1922-23. I would only draw attention to this mattter. Let the money be there, just as money is kept in the police budget.

I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 25,000 for the British Empire Exhibition, be refused."

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: In the absence of the mover, I move the following amendment which stood in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta:—

"That the demand for the Home Industries Association be refused."

This is rather a painful matter. I am sorry that I have got to say this. We all know that this institution was started by a friendly member of the Indian Civil Service, Mr. Ascoli, for the purpose of benefiting the people engaged in cottage industries. We, however, find that after full 5 years' working in which the Government has paid Rs. 6,98,000, the whole thing is nothing but absolutely wrong. They had a manager on Rs. 500 who is no longer there. There was also a regrettable incident—a defalcation of Rs. 30,000. During last year, the total amount sold was Rs. 67,851-6-8, while the amount that is likely to be the profit out of it would be about Rs. 6,000 or Rs. 7,000, but the total cost on establishment, etc., was ten times as great. This is bound to be a miserable failure. I may mention that Mr. S. R. Das assures me that the whole thing is coming into the hands of a very trustworthy businessman. I shall not press this motion if my friend assures me that the whole matter is being well looked after: and I shall accept with pleasure any statement he wishes to make in this connection.

Mr. S. R. DAS: I am not a member of the Home Industries Association, but I take a keen interest in it. Latterly, I made some inquiries into its working and I can assure my friend, Babu Surendra Mallik, that, for the present at any rate, it is doing very good work. The gentleman who was brought on a salary of Rs. 500 a month was brought with a view to put the selling department in proper order—I am not sure whether he was brought from Messrs. Hall and Anderson. His services were dispensed with, because the authorities there have now learnt what was to be learnt in the art of selling. At present, Mr. S. C. Roy, Barrister-at-law, is taking a very keen interest in the matter, and I can assure my friend that things are going on very well indeed. It is practically carried on by non-official agency and is doing excellent work in pushing forward the sale of indigenous goods. If my friend will go down, he will see that the list, which has been made and which the office has in its posses-

sion, shows the different kinds of cottage industries carried on in various parts of the country, and the manner in which these things are collected and brought to Calcutta and sold here; and I am sure that he will agree with me that it is doing very good work. From inquiries I made, I found that at one time the management was somewhat slack. In fact, as my friend has said, there was an unfortunate defalcation by one of its servants who was employed to start a branch shop and the Association lost some money through it. Things have now been put in order and good work is being done. I trust that the House will continue the grant of the small sum which used to be given to it, *viz.*, Rs. 18,000, by way of assistance. I do not know if the Association has made any profit, but in spite of the loss that has occurred of about Rs. 30,000, they have incurred no debt at all. The work of pushing on the sale of the industries might be done very much better than it has been done hitherto; and I do not think that they have hitherto done it in a business like way; but an attempt is now being made to put it on a proper business footing. I trust that my friend will withdraw his amendment.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I endorse every word that has been said by Mr. Das in recommending this grant. There have been laches but the defects have been cured and the institution is now in good hands. There is one piece of good work which is being done and which will be of the utmost value to the country. There are records there, when Mr. Ascoli was in charge, of what the industries are in the villages of Bengal, the names of the workers are there, and the description of the things they produce and the prices are also there Samples were obtained and attempts are being made to make a representative collection. If that record is brought up to date, it will be of the utmost value to all of us. Home industries must be encouraged and I hope that the recommendation that has been made will be accepted.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: So far as Mr. S. R. Das's statement, that I might go and see things for myself in order to be convinced, is concerned I do not think that I need do it at all. He is the elder and more responsible son of my motherland and if he is convinced, I am also convinced and I would unhesitatingly accept his statement. If he is satisfied that this money ought to be used for a good purpose for my motherland, I must say that I should withdraw my objection to this grant. I therefore beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I move the following amendments together, as they relate to the same subject:—

"That the demand for Rs. 4,164 under the heading '35C.—Industries—Fisheries—Steam Launch Establishment,' be refused."

"That the demand for Rs. 14,000 under the heading '35C.—Industries—Fisheries—Steam Launch Contingencies,' be refused."

I find that this department has spent a large sum of money to justify its existence. For this reason, I do not oppose any expenditure for carrying on the ordinary work of the department, but when I find a provision made for being spent for certain purposes which can be economised by the adoption of cheaper methods, I believe I am entitled to ask for its reduction. I am inclined to believe that for ordinary work of a Director, a steam launch is not required at all. It is not known whether the steam launch is required for investigation work or for travelling facilities. I do not think it is so much a necessity as the recurring expenditure will be very great in view of the fact that at present coal and other materials required for running steam launches have risen in value. Under this head of travelling allowances a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been budgeted. This provision is certainly meant for journeys by rail and not by steam launches. For ordinary journeys, country-boats should be used. I am not aware whether this launch is meant for a particular locality. If it is meant for the whole province, then the expenditure for running it must be enormous. I beg to suggest, therefore, that instead of maintaining a steam launch, the work be carried out, where necessary, by country-boats, as they are available wherever there is river communication. I leave it, however, to the Hon'ble Minister to consider whether it is not possible to leave this provision. If there be a steam launch it can be profitably employed for other purposes of the department.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I ask, Sir, how a country-boat can be used for touring purpose or for chasing fishes? (Laughter).

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I need not repeat what I have already said about the Fisheries Department. While I admit that, so far, it has not achieved any great practical results, I have expressed my belief that it has great possibilities and I have asked the Council to give me an opportunity of testing this belief by appointing a qualified and experienced officer as Director.

The steam launch to which this motion refers is intended not only for the use of the Director of Fisheries but also for the use of the Director of Agriculture and is used over the whole province. The necessity of a launch for the Director of Fisheries is too obvious to require explanation. The Director of Agriculture has to visit many places which are accessible only by water and if he were deprived of the services of a launch, not only would his time be wasted but the work in these places would suffer seriously. The small increase of Rs. 600 in the demand over the revised estimate for the current year is due to the increase of pay which has recently been granted to all menials under Government.

As regards motion No. 321, of the total grant of Rs. 14,000 Rs. 4,000 is required for the ordinary working expenses of the launch. This item has been cut down as much as possible and any further reduction will mean that the launch could not be fully used. The balance of Rs. 10,000

is for urgent repairs. These have been held in abeyance for some time though they ought to have been carried out at an earlier date. Any further delay will mean a serious deterioration in the condition and, consequently in the value of the launch, and it is therefore important, from a purely economical point of view, that these repairs should be executed. I therefore ask the Council to reject these motions.

The motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendment was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 6,348 under the heading '35C.—Industries—Fisheries—Temporary Establishment,' be reduced to Rs. 4,000."

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur being absent, the following amendment was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the sum of Rs. 61,000 which it is proposed to grant under head 'Fisheries' be reduced by Rs. 27,000."

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I move "that the demand of Rs. 61,000 for the Fisheries Department (Detailed Account No. 35C.), be reduced by Rs. 21,000."

I find that in 1921-22, the Budget grant for this department was Rs. 54,000, while the revised estimate was Rs. 45,000. In 1922-23, the demand is for Rs. 82,000; thus it exceeds the revised estimate by Rs. 32,000. I therefore suggest that it be reduced by Rs. 21,000 in order to avoid unnecessary expenditure. We have been told that a new Director of Fisheries is going to be appointed. Well, I question the propriety of that and, as such, I move that the demand ought to be cut down. It may be said that if we want to keep officials, we ought to go on spending more and more money. I do not want the Fisheries Department. I know it is a sheer waste of money. Nothing is done by that department except that a few officers patrol about in steam-launches. If there is anybody who says it is not so, I can challenge him. I know something about the department. Let anybody come and tell me that this result has been obtained in all these years. As I have said, it is a sheer waste of money and I strongly urge this Council not to pass this grant. I think it is too much to ask for this grant. I feel that for years there has not been any the slightest improvement in the work of this department. The fact is that, as an Indian Civilian was going to be deprived of his legitimate due, a special Commissioner was appointed and this has been prolonged for no obvious reason. As no good purpose has been served by having this department, I protest against this grant.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I regret I cannot agree in this matter with my esteemed friend Babu Surendra Nath Mallik. I do, however, believe in the Fisheries Department and I do believe in the

future possibilities of that department. I think that if the Fisheries Department can be properly run, it can prove a very profitable source of revenue to the Government. Yet, though I believe in the Fisheries Department, I am not prepared to justify an expenditure in the wrong direction. Babu Surendra Nath Mallik has taken objection to the salaries of the new post that is being created, *viz.*, the post of the Director of Fisheries. But while I am also opposed to the creation of such a new post, I do not understand how he can take objection to that item as it is a non-voted one.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Excuse me. I have not taken it up, but I have taken Rs. 21,000 from the whole grant.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move " that the sum of Rs. 61,000 which it is proposed to grant under head 'Fisheries, ' be reduced by Rs. 12,000."

My amendment relates to the allowances and steam-launches contingencies. I want the provision to be reduced by Rs. 12,000 as I find that here there is a provision of Rs. 12,000 more than in the revised estimate. I do not think that the Fisheries Department has yet been able to justify its existence. Therefore, as I cannot object to the new appointment, I object to the increased provision for travelling allowances and steam-launch contingencies for this new post.

Colonel A. J. PUGH: It has been somewhat interesting to hear my friend Babu Surendra Nath Mallik opposing first of all, the home industries grant and now opposing or asking for a reduction of the grant for the Fisheries Department. He poses as being the champion of the poor and yet he is trying to deprive the poor of their food. This is the gentleman who comes into this Council and asks that in a matter of this sort grants should be cut down.

As regards the Fisheries Department, I probably know a little bit more about it than Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, because a few years ago with the intention of finding out whether a fishery could be run at a profit, I made a certain experiment. I took a lease of certain fishing rights at Chandipur (" hear, hear"). Now the result of my experience is that if a Fisheries Department in Bengal be properly organised and properly run, you can supply the whole of Bengal with an unlimited quantity of fish. The only question is the difficulty in getting the fish quickly from the rivers or from the sea into the markets. Everything has to be experimented with. In Scotland three miles of sea fishing are let for no less than a sum of £1,000. It is a tremendous industry and when I was in England last time, I made certain inquiries not only from the India Office but from other places as to how the fisheries of Bengal could be really well run and run at a profit; and they strongly recommended that an expert should be placed in charge of the Fisheries

Department. You must first make a beginning and every time you try to make a beginning either in the Agricultural Department or in the Fisheries Department, you get gentlemen like Babu Surendra Nath Mallik and Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur objecting to it. That is the position. I am perfectly satisfied that if anyone had the time at his disposal, and would be prepared to invest Rs. 30,000 or anything up to a lakh of rupees, with three steam-launches so that we could bring fish in large quantities into Calcutta, and make a handsome profit. There are, however, two things to be considered. As far as Calcutta is concerned, there is a limited demand for fish which sells at six annas a seer or over, and there is an unlimited demand for fish which sells under six annas a seer. In order to get fish which sells under six annas a seer into the market, you must provide an adequate number of launches and other things, and combine sea-fishing with river-fishing. So, I submit that this grant, instead of being reduced, should be, as remarked by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, increased to three times the money that is proposed to be granted.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I was a member of the Fishery Board which was inaugurated at the time of Sir Andrew Fraser. Sir, K. G. Gupta was the Fishery Commissioner, and he was succeeded by Mr. Ahmad. I have been associated with the Fishery Board for some time, and I have great faith in the potentialities of that department. As a member of that Board for some years, I may say that the way in which the work is conducted merely consists in issuing big blue books, which do not reach the masses and which are of very little benefit to the people at large. I quite agree that there is a large scope for increasing this important source of food-supply, but there is such a great handicap in the way of transport facilities, that the people from the mufassal and other places cannot bring their stuff to Calcutta in proper time before it is so decomposed as to be quite unfit for human consumption. I must say, however, that so far no successful attempt has been made to improve transport facilities, whether for want of money I do not know. There are a large number of people, who subsist by this industry, and if facilities for easy transport were given them, I think there would be a great development of this industry. Unfortunately, nothing has been done in this direction and although we have created big posts carrying fat salaries, we are still in the same position as we were 20 years ago.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: I do not wish to take up much time of the House by going into the history of the Fisheries Department. The failure of the *Golden Crown's* trawling experiments proved to the hilt the unenterprising nature of the people of Bengal. It was simply due to want of enterprise on the part of the Calcutta merchants, that the valuable experiment in connection with the *Golden*

Crown came to nothing. This experiment was inaugurated by Government with the idea of pioneering the fish industry as there was tremendous scope in introducing healthy sea fishes for our diet. Everybody in Calcutta will remember what varieties of fish the *Golden Crown* used to bring from the sea: there were bhetkis, mullets, pomfrets, and other kinds of fishes. The people of Calcutta were not enterprising enough to follow up the experimental work and start companies. I agree with the remarks of Colonel Pugh—and in fact I was associated with him in connection with Chandipore fisheries, and I know the difficulties about marketing fish. In the winter, the conditions are favourable for a good trade, but in the summer, the difficulties are great for want of proper cold storage. This question of cold storage has been discussed *ad infinitum* by the Calcutta Corporation, but nothing came out of it. I do not want to go into the question how Mr. Southwell conducted his experiments. Undoubtedly, these were expensive experiments. His was a great scientific research. He wanted to breed carp and other fresh water fishes in confined waters and propagate hilsa. If he were allowed to continue it, he might have done something very good. What I would like to impress on the Hon'ble Minister is that he should encourage the Fisheries Department to take up co-operative work. I know the utterly miserable condition of the fishermen.

They are compelled to borrow money from money-lenders at ruinous rates of interest. They should be given facilities to take loans and repay by instalments, and to send their catches to Calcutta and elsewhere for sale on their account by Government through Government agencies.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: With regard to the Fisheries Department, as Colonel Pugh has pointed out, it has vast possibilities before it, but up to date it has done nothing. Besides distributing small quantities of fish in the mufassal, it has done no practical work. I have read the reports of the Fisheries Department, and I find that the experts of that department devoted much of their time in studying the breeding habits of different fishes. Of course, with regard to some fishes this serves some useful purpose, but I cannot understand what useful purpose will be served by studying the breeding habits of hilsa fish. In this year's Budget, there is provision for a launch for this department. If the launch is used for the purpose of catching fish and bringing them to the market, the launch will, of course, serve a very useful purpose. But on the contrary, if this launch is used for inspection, for going into the interior, instead of improving the industry, it will scare away fish. The thing is that in the interior, there are a vast number of *bils* and other canals, and if they are properly conserved and if they are properly used for breeding fish, then this country can produce an enormous amount of fish. By the excellent railway system all the fish caught in the mufassal are brought to Calcutta, and we find that the prices of some fish are higher in the mufassal than in Calcutta in the

winter season, and if the fish-supply can be improved, then the poor people of Bengal, who consider fish as the next thing to rice, would get some good food, and that would serve to prolong their lives to a certain extent; but I am sorry in that direction next to nothing has been done. No attempt has been made to improve the breeding and to conserve *bils*. In order to protect the fish, I think legislation is necessary. This morning, I found in the market that very small fries were being sold—they were not fit for human beings. I do not know what sort of people take relish in eating these. I think by law the slaughter of small fries should be prohibited—they should be preserved, and in this way the fish-supply can be improved. Otherwise, by simply employing highly-salaried officers and by supplying them with launches, no useful purpose will be served. Nevertheless, when this department is under an Hon'ble Minister, who is trying to do some improvements in other directions, for instance in the matter of salting fish, etc., we should not grudge this small amount which has been budgeted for this year. From that point of view, I oppose the motion of Babu Surendra Nath Mallik.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I have already explained the position fully as regards the Fisheries Department. I have admitted that in the past it has not accomplished any great practical results; at the same time, I have expressed my firm conviction that the department is capable of doing great benefits to the province and I have asked the Council to give me an opportunity of substantiating this opinion by voting in full the demand for the department. Some patience will be necessary; visible and practical results cannot be expected at once. We must first get a qualified Director who will require some time to study the conditions and to prepare schemes for the development of the department, but I believe that within quite a limited period, we shall be able to point to definite results achieved. Without a qualified Director nothing can be achieved, and I regard the motion of Babu Surendra Nath Mallik that the demand for the Fisheries Department should be reduced by the amount equivalent to the non-voted salary of the proposed Director as equivalent to the abolition of the department. I ask the Council to vote the demand and watch the results with patience for three or four years. If during that period the department fails to justify its existence, it will then be time for the Council to refuse the demand for it, and thus order its abolition. The increase in the grant is due to the provision for a Director and for repairs to the launch, the need of which I have already explained. I ask the Council to reject these motions.

These motions were then put and lost.

At this stage, the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournment.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 8,81,000 under head '35.—Industries (Transferred), be reduced by Rs. 1,25,000."

At the very outset, I want to draw the attention of the House to the irregular way in which subjects are arranged under "reserved" and "transferred" heads. It was only but last year, that the department of the electric adviser was under the transferred head, and the department of cinchona plantation was under the reserved head. This year, the Hon'ble Minister made the department of electric adviser under the reserved head with the cinchona plantation without giving any explanation.

The next grave charge against the department is the lack of its constructive programme. Every year, provision is made for the industrial development, but unfortunately at the end of every year, the Hon'ble Minister shows a surplus in the way of saving the whole amount thus voted. This lack of constructive statesmanship cannot be tolerated, when there are the drawn-out ways and plans long ago formulated by the Industrial Commission.

Mr. Swan, when he was the Special Officer in 1914, submitted a report in which he attributed the cause of the failure of *Swadeshi* ventures to the lack of banking facility, and, as a way to solve it, he advocated the development of co-operative system. The Hon'ble Minister, since the assumption of his office, is neglecting or rather impoverishing the department. Yet he is doing one thing, he is making the administration top-heavy. Following up the instructions of the Industrial Commission, lucrative posts like the Director of Industries, Superintendents of Industries, Assistant Director of Industries, Industrial Intelligence Officer, Inspector of Industrial and Technical Institutions, Industrial Chemist, have been created like so many sinecures. Apart from the question of their qualifications and capacity, which are not up to the mark according to the recommendations of the Industrial Commission, I like only to make this remark that sufficient time has been given to them to do some substantial work, but to our utter surprise it must be said anything worth mentioning has not been done. We are spending an enormous sum in return of which we are told (in reply to my questions in January last) that only 1,000 *charkas* and 3,860 fly-shuttles have been introduced. The second part of the question is rather a careless assertion. How can the Hon'ble Minister think that cotton industries cannot be developed with our home-grown cotton. We do not want muslins, we want coarse cloths, all that is true is that the Hon'ble Minister made no attempt to find out anything about our cotton grown in India, otherwise he might have learnt from the statistics that a large quantity of raw coton is annually exported out of India. I, therefore, want to make a drastic retrenchment in this branch of the department, as we are too poor to offer sinecures to our political favourites. Under the heading "direction" two sums of

money under voted and non-voted lists have been provided for. I like to omit the whole voted amount, Rs. 42,720 and with it Rs. 11,000 in the travelling allowance making a total of Rs. 53,720. In the Calcutta Research Tannery, a sum of Rs. 60,000 has been provided for under contingencies without the details, I like to make it half—Rs. 30,000 in all. In the same department I want to make a reduction of Rs. 7,000 in the establishment charges and Rs. 1,500 in the travelling allowances. Under the heading "Technical and Industrial Schools," I want to make reductions of Rs. 9,000 from the grant to the principals and the teaching staff, Rs. 2,500 from their travelling allowance, Rs. 2,000 from the contract contingencies, and Rs. 4,000 from the purchase and repair of appliances, making a total of Rs. 17,500. In the Department of Fisheries, I want to make reductions in the whole voted amount for the Director and other gazetted officers, that is Rs. 6,480 in all and Rs. 6,000 from their travelling allowances, and Rs. 3,000 from the temporary establishment charges. Thus my total reductions amount to Rs. 1,25,200. I have, therefore, put it to Rs. 1,25,000.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: May I rise to a point of order? Is the mover in order in proposing reductions of items which have already been passed by the Council?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Certain items have already been passed by the Council, and you cannot suggest reductions under those heads.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I am proposing a general reduction.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Very well, you can go on, but please try and keep off items that have already been discussed.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I admit that the development of industry is our goal, but it must be organised on a judicious and economic basis. I think cottage industries, especially cottage cotton industries, can be developed on a sound basis which, like the bye-product of a factory, will enable the poor peasantry to earn a subsidiary income. The department would do well to buy *charkas*, looms and cotton for them and collect the products and find a market for them. If the department devotes its attention to it, I believe it will be not only self-supporting, but will also be a source of revenue to the State. Commercialism in the State has been cried down in the past, but it is the only possible way by which we can popularise the national aspirations.

In conclusion, I like to remark that, in these days of financial stringency, we should make retrenchment in every possible way and I have pointed out the retrenchments that can be effected according to my conscience. I have also shown how the department, if properly handled,

will become a source of revenue to the State. I think the House will agree with me that no demand for money can be made without offering the benefits in return, consequently, advocacy for superfluous expenditure, that is expenditure for expenditure's sake or, to back up a top-heavy administration must be discouraged.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I move "that the demand of Rs. 8,81,000 for the Industries Department (Transferred), be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

It is, I believe, evident on the face of it, that my object is to invite discussion of this most important item. I believe there has been sufficient discussion under various heads in the past of the Budget items. I would not, therefore, tire the House by inflicting on them a long speech. I would simply draw attention to certain prominent facts. In the year 1918-1919, the cost began with Rs. 3,21,000, it amounted to Rs. 4,03,000 in 1919-20, Rs. 5,77,000 in 1920-21, Rs. 8,15,000 in the current year's revised estimate; and the estimate for the ensuing year is Rs. 10,00,000. I do not grudge this expenditure, but we have looked into these estimates, which have been circulated to us, and we find, after carefully going through all these items, that 90 per cent. of this sum is swallowed up in establishment charges, and only a sum of Rs. 54,000 has been cut down for giving technical education, Rs. 4,000 for opening a new technical school at Rangamati, and Rs. 25,000 for the promotion of industrial education. These are the few items which are noted down in this list; and there is another item of Rs. 1,66,000 for the promotion of industrial education, but in the details I find that the bulk of this sum is for the increase of pay of professors, teachers and servants. I think it necessary, therefore, to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that while 300 per cent. increase has been made under this head, from Rs. 3,00,000 to Rs. 10,00,000, a very small amount is allotted for the promotion of industrial and technical education in this country. Further, there is another important fact and that is Rs. 1,20,000 was budgeted last year for a Tannery Research Institute and also a lump provision for industrial education which could not be utilised It is said in the statements accompanying the Budget, that the scheme could not be matured and, therefore, the money could not be utilised. It may be that the Department is so overworked that it could not find time to mature the scheme. I desire to assure the House that we are not in for false retrenchment, but what we want is solid work and real advancement. We have paid so much and we ask what is the actual and solid outturn. By all means take the Rs. 10,00,000, but show us the outturn. Tell us explicitly what we may expect next year. Let us know that. We are elected by the people and the Hon'ble Minister has also been returned by the people, and when we go back to the country we want to say that this is the outturn that we expect by spending so much money. We are not

criticising in a carping spirit. Colonel Pugh has said that we are always in for retrenchment, but I may tell him that we do not grudge expenditure but that we want solid work.

With these words, I move my amendment.

The following amendment was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: "That the sum of Rs. 12,16,000, which it is proposed to grant under this head, be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Mr. DEVI PROSAD KHAITAN: In rising to take part in the discussion arising out of the motion of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, I may say at once that I am not supporting any retrenchment for this department. In fact I feel that industry is the only way in which economic development of the province can be carried out. I fully appreciate the services that had in the past been rendered by the Department of Industries. I further appreciate the services which the Hon'ble Minister in charge is attempting to render in this province in the shape of industrial development. But at the same time, I feel that the problem of the development of industries is not being dealt with in an adequate or practical manner. I am a great believer in the value of industrial and technical education but at the same time, it must be remembered that simply industrial and technical education cannot bring into existence a single factory or a single cottage industry in the province, nor can reviews bound in blue books, nor manifestoes or *communiqués* issued by the Department of Industries bring forth factories or revive the cottage industries of the province. What is needed is a careful inquiry into the situation, into the needs and requirements of each particular locality of the province and to supply the requirements which will enable the people of the province themselves to take to industries.

Each locality, each district and each province has its own peculiar needs, and if full inquiry is to be made into the conditions which would bring about the development of industries of the Province, it will be found that the chief thing to be done is to enable small capitalists and poor people to start industries on the lines of what is called cottage industries. Transport facilities and organisation are required in order to enable small capitalists to start these industries. What is required is, as I have said on the last occasion, cheap power in order to enable them to start enterprise of a manufacturing nature. The importance of cheap power has been pointed out not only by Sir Thomas Holland in his recent speech but also in the Industrial Commission's Report and in the Report of Mr. Meares on the hydro-electrical survey. All these things have got to be done in order to enable the small capitalists and poor agriculturists to make their spare time in manufacturing the process of this nature.

I have carefully looked into the Quarterly Report of the Industries Department that has been published in the Journal of Industries and Labour of February last, in which a report of the work done by this department has been shown, and, Sir, if you will excuse my saying I think that the report is of a disgraceful nature. If that is the amount of work that is to be done by the Department of Industries we are not going to have a good return from this very beneficial department. The problem of the Department of Industries must be tackled in a practical manner. The requirements of the people must be served and along with the imparting of industrial and technical education all these practical requirements must be met if we wish to develop the resources of the province which, in the words of Mr. Montagu, is the only sure way of development of the country.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: As the time is short, I must come at once to the point. It is this: there was an Industrial Commission presided over by Sir Thomas Holland and he was assisted by a large number of experts. They laid down a certain policy, elaborate, certain, and definite. Now I want to know why our Minister is not following it in its entirety? Why is he going back to the old exploded system of the tannery which was condemned by the Industrial Commission? Why is he going to follow the old scheme advocated by Mr. Swan? I want to know why Government is not supporting its own Commission? I, therefore, say, unless the Minister follows and gives effect to the Commission's Report, he will not be doing his duty.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: In reply to general motions for the reduction of grants to the Industries Department such as these two which are now before the Council, I can only reply by pointing to what has already been achieved and to the schemes to which effect will be given if funds are placed at my disposal. For, I must again remind members that I have not been able to include a single new scheme in these estimates. These schemes will be put forward for the approval of the Council when the surplus funds arising from the recently passed taxation are distributed among the different departments. I have dealt with this matter in my speech on the general discussion of the Budget and I need not repeat in detail what I then said. A systematic industrial survey of the province is now being made. Cottage industries have been assisted in various directions. The Research Tannery is doing work of the highest importance both in the direction of research and experiment and in the direction of demonstration and training of apprentices. Technical education is now under the Director of Industries, and this in itself involves a mass of work. If, as the result of the taxation Bills, which have been passed, it is possible to place sufficient funds at my disposal, the department will take up many important investigations such as

inquiries into the possibilities of match manufacture and glass manufacture. The schemes for opening technical institutions for the training of apprentices in Calcutta and Kanchrapara will be carried to completion. The Serampore Weaving Institute will be properly housed and accommodation will be provided for a larger number of students.

Then we have schemes for the establishment of junior technical, industrial and commercial schools in the mufassal. I hope also to increase the number of district peripatetic weaving schools and to start a silk weaving institute at Murshidabad, and a secondary silk weaving school at Malda. Other schemes include the establishment of pioneer cigar factories, improvement of the embroidery industries, and the improvement of the Dacca Conch Shell industry. Another scheme of the greatest importance to the province is the fostering of small and cottage industries by means of industrial loans and by the introduction of a system of hire-purchase of machinery. The Rai Bahadur will not have to complain of the lack of a constructive programme if funds are placed at my disposal.

As the Council will remember, the Department of Industries has only been in existence on its present footing for a little over two years. Up till 1920, the Director of Industries was also the Director of Munitions, and this branch of his work naturally occupied the greatest part of his time during the war and the year or two that followed it. The Director of Industries was first appointed as a whole-time officer in January, 1920. The staff of the department has been got together gradually and even now the staff which the Industrial Commission regarded as the minimum has not been recruited in full. This gradual recruitment sufficiently explains the gradual increase under establishment to which Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has drawn attention. I ask the Council to have some patience. As I have pointed out on more than one occasion with reference to the Agricultural Department research must precede demonstration, and it is not until the stage of demonstration is reached that practical results can be achieved. The Agricultural Department which has been established for a considerable number of years has now reached that stage, and is able to point, with legitimate pride, to the remarkable results which are now becoming manifest. The Department of Industries is still in the earliest stage of development, but I do not doubt that, if a reasonable degree of patience is exercised, the department will, in the comparatively near future, be able to point to practical results not less creditable than those which the Agricultural Department has achieved. I ask the Council to give the department an opportunity of proving its worth, and to reject these motions which would mean a serious curtailment of its activities if not its total abolition.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: With the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: After what has fallen from the Hon'ble Minister, I think we must hold our souls in patience and I therefore beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 12,33,000 for expenditure under the head " 35.—Industries " was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Wednesday, the 29th March, 1922, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 29th March, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair the Hon'ble the four members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 94 nominated and elected members.

Welcome to His Excellency the Earl of Lytton and Her Excellency Lady Lytton.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): It is with great pleasure that we welcome His Excellency the Earl of Lytton and Her Excellency Lady Lytton to Bengal. It is not only because Lord Lytton was born in India and is, therefore naturally expected to have a feeling of affection for the Indians that we give him a most cordial welcome, but because he has already been intimately associated with the policy of progressive realisation of responsible Government in the administration of the country. Lord Lytton has already had ample opportunities of studying the problems of the country. We hope he will carry out the policy which was the earnest endeavour of Mr. Montagu to have achieved. In the words of His Majesty the King-Emperor—"For years, it may be for generations, patriotic and loyal Indians have dreamed of *Swaraj* for their motherland. To-day you have the beginnings of *Swaraj* within my Empire, and widest scope and ample opportunity for progress to the liberty which my other dominions enjoy." Great have been the changes in the constitution of the country during the administration of Lord Ronaldshay, and though the country has lately passed through a period of wild pulsation, such manifestations as have recently occurred, should not, we think, tell against the fulfulment of the strong desire for orderly progress, which is the real aim of the people of Bengal, and, in welcoming His Excellency, we feel assured that the progress which has begun will continue uninterrupted towards the end which we wish to attain.

To Her Excellency Lady Lytton we also accord a hearty welcome. I am not quite certain whether she passed her childhood in Bengal, but this much I know, that her father spent a good portion of his time in the work of administration in Bengal, with the people of which province he was in terms of the utmost cordiality.

To both we offer our heartiest congratulations on their advent to our dear motherland, and wish them health and happiness.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: On behalf of my constituency, I have the honour to accord a sincere and respectful welcome to our Governor, His Excellency Lord Lytton, and I take the liberty of associating with his name, the name of Lady Lytton. High expectations have been raised by his appointment and I feel that those expectations will be fulfilled. We have a claim upon him: he was born in India and India claims from him its due. We are passing through difficult times with a heavy deficit—practically a bankrupt administration. We are living in hopes, hopes based upon unpopular legislation with regard to taxation. We find the administration top-heavy. The police budget has been attacked, and, according to many of us, justly attacked.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: May I ask for a ruling? Has the police budget or the top-heavy administration anything to do with the welcome to be extended to His Excellency?

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I submit it has. I am only calling his attention to these facts. If it is the wish of some members that these facts should be kept back from the Governor that is one thing, but I am perfectly in order to show what the state of things is and I cannot understand the Hon'ble Member's objection. These are things which should be stated openly and clearly, and it is my humble desire that they should be brought to the notice of His Excellency. We are hoping to get relief with regard to matters of sanitation and education which have been starved, and we hope to get relief from him. The policy will be in his hands and he will guide the policy of the Members of the Executive Council. I express the hope of all of us that his administration will be liberal, progressive and sympathetic.

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: I think it is not desirable that in an address of welcome we should refer to these controversial matters.

Sir ASUTOSH CHAUDHURI: I am not going to refer to them any more. What I am submitting is this. We hope that his administration will be sympathetic, progressive and liberal, and, with that expectation and with that hope, we are giving him a hearty welcome.

Mr. R. H. L. LANGFORD JAMES: On behalf of the European community, I thank you for giving me an opportunity of joining with you in welcoming His Excellency Lord Lytton and Lady Lytton to Bengal. I cannot hope to vie in oratory or choice of phrase with you, Sir, but, though my speech may be blunt, the welcome I extend to His Excellency, the representative of our beloved King-Emperor, is none the less warm. May he be endowed with health and strength and power to administer wisely and for the good of all communities the

affairs of this great Province. His Excellency will find it no light task, but he is assured already of the good-will and the cordial co-operation of all who have the interests of the country at heart. Up to twelve months ago India was governed by what has come to be known as a bureaucracy: it is a horrible work but at least it expresses my meaning. With the Reforms has come the gradual introduction of a more democratic form of Government. As we all know, there are those who are trying to force the pace. Let them study the histories of any of the nations of the world at present enjoying democratic Government.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: May I know if it is not a controversial subject? I want to know so that we too might equally dwell on that.

Mr. R. H. L. LANGFORD JAMES: I do not think it is controversial in any way. Is it your pleasure, Sir, that I should continue?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Yes, go on please.

Mr. R. H. L. LANGFORD JAMES: I shall be surprised if they do not soon realise the truth of the saying that "Rome was not built in a day." Forms of Government are not made up like a prescription at the chemist's and handed across the counter while you wait. The evolution of a nation is a slow and stately process, and it can no more be hurried than can a child be forced by artificial means to grow up into a man before his time. These remarks, Sir, are called forth by the reflection that in my opinion His Excellency is to be congratulated on coming to Bengal at an intensely interesting period of her history. The Reforms are fairly launched, but every new machine has to bed down before its running becomes perfect and His Excellency's régime in Bengal will cover the most interesting period of the bedding down process. To him falls the task of the master-engineer, directing all who have the privilege of working under him in the running of the machine. May he be endowed with power and wisdom to fulfil his task.

With your permission, Sir, I should like to turn to another subject. Not only have we a welcome to extend but we have also a farewell to say. Who in this Council, whatever may be his political views will not say "good-bye" to the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler with the very greatest regret?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: This will form the subject of another motion, so you need not dwell on it now.

Mr. R. H. L. LANGFORD JAMES: That is all that I have to say.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: It is quite fit and meet that the welcome of the people of Bengal to their new Governor and Lady Lytton should be voiced by the popular representatives in the Legislature of the Province.

Ours is a cordial and respectful welcome which greets Lord Lytton on the threshold of his official career as the administrative head of the first province of the Indian Empire. Our welcome is not a dry and conventional formality, a mere ceremonial, which we are in duty bound to observe on the occasion of the assumption of his exalted office by a new Governor. I claim it is more than this; it is a feeling and hearty welcome from the people of Bengal to their Governor as he assumes the reins of administration of the province. We feel sure that His Excellency will receive it aright as the message and greeting of good-will, confidence and hope on the part of the people of the province, over whose destinies he has been called upon to preside at a most critical juncture in the history of the nation.

The appointment of Lord Lytton to the Governorship of Bengal is one of the last acts of far-seeing and sympathetic statesmanship of the late Secretary of State for India. We feel that no better selection would have been made; and we devoutly hope that Lord Lytton may justify the trust and responsibility imposed on him by His Majesty the King-Emperor.

Born in India and proud of his connection with this country, well versed in, and sympathetic towards the aspirations of Indians as citizens of the British Empire, our Governor happily is no absolute stranger to this land and its affairs. Lately Under Secretary of State for India and President of the Students' Inquiry Committee, he has had unique opportunities to acquaint himself with the currents and problems of Indian administration to-day; and his intimate association, as an able lieutenant, with Mr. Montagu in the India Office must, we trust, have inspired him with something of the same breadth of large-hearted liberalism and sympathetic statesmanship, which has enthroned Mr. Montagu in the hearts of his Indian fellow subjects for all time to come

Evidently Lord Lytton comes to India pledged to a progressive and conciliatory policy, such as is calculated to promote the success of the Reforms; and we can only hope that he will remain firm and true to the lesson of his late illustrious and distinguished chief, and not let his angle of vision be perverted and his purpose paralysed by the shifting strategy of British diplomacy, and the implacable antagonism of the upholders of benevolent despotism in this land.

Lord Ronaldshay stood forth as one of the stoutest champions of Indian Constitutional Reform, and adhered to his creed with a tenacious hope and persistency. Lord Lytton comes to us nurtured in the liberal doctrine of Mr. Montagu, which held out to India the promise of equal partnership in the British Commonwealth of Nations. As I said, ours is not a formal welcome but a sincere outpouring of the heart. While we are grateful for the Reforms and while we live in hopes of progressive realisation of full self-government, we feel it our duty to acquaint His Excellency that the people are crushed by over-taxation which detracts a great deal from the value of the Reforms.

May we hope that irrespective of differences of opinion and conflict of views on matters of administrative detail, the fundamental plank of the policy of the new Governor will be such as will help the realisation of the cherished ambition of India to attain to the status of a full Self-Governing Dominion within the Empire under the ægis of the British Crown

Mr. H. A. STARK: The Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Community accord His Excellency the Earl of Lytton and Lady Lytton a respectful and sincere welcome. Into our greetings we venture to introduce a personal note, for to His Excellency's illustrious father we owe the creation of European education as a distinct branch of the Department of Public Instruction, and, like us, he claims India as the country where he was born. We have been gratified to hear from him that he experiences that mysterious affection which every one feels for the land of his birth.

The greatest interpreter between man and man is sympathy, and we are hopeful that His Excellency's understanding of the peoples of Bengal will be illumined by that gift of sympathy which he brings with him as he enters upon his exalted office. We anticipate with confidence that he will uphold, and add to, the noble traditions of his great House—traditions which are instinct with a generous appreciation of human environment, human aspirations, and human endeavour.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: On behalf of the graduates of this country and of the University in this Council, I beg to accord a hearty welcome to our new Governor. Lord Lytton comes here with the reputation of a student of philosophy, and I am sure he will bring the great lessons of liberal ideas which he has imbibed from philosophy to bear on the administration of the country. I think that he has been told by the *Times* that the Bengal Legislative Council is the worst of the provincial councils, but I am sure he will find that accusation unjustified, and that his impression that Bengal is the home of the intelligentsia and the cradle of liberal ideas in the country is well founded.

Lord Lytton has started with a very good opinion of the people of the country, and it bodes well for the administration that our Governor has got such high ideas about the capabilities of the people of this province and his own mission, and I am sure that under his régime we shall have sympathetic and wise rule in the near future.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: As a representative of the landlords of Bengal in this Council, on their behalf, I beg to offer our heartiest welcome to His Excellency the Earl as well as Her Excellency the Countess of Lytton. He is not really a stranger to our land. He comes to us with an additional charm. He is almost an Indian. He was

born in India, has always loved India, and in his official capacity was connected with India. And this is the first time that Providence has so ordained that he should, by his gracious presence, serve one of the foremost provinces of the land of his birth. A descendant of Bulwer-Lytton who could imagine to himself the pangs and sorrows of a blind maiden groping for love and light, can well be expected to visualise the yearnings of a nation groping for light and liberty. His Excellency comes here hallowed with the great name of his ancestors. May we be given the opportunity of realising our expectations in him.

As zamindars it is no small gratification to us that all our Governors have belonged to the landed aristocracy of Great Britain. They can easily realise our existing difficulties and the dangers that lie ahead. It is therefore extremely fortunate that we always have had such men at the head of our administration to befriend us, to advise us, and to guide us. Everywhere it has always been the lot of the landed aristocracy to lead the people and be their spokesmen. The zamindars of Bengal may have lacked in publicity and obtrusiveness but they have all along taken a very important part in politics, and they have been able to do the greatest good to their country by exercising their influence with the governors and other high officials. Sir, ours is a traditional loyalty, and during all these critical times, even from the beginning of the British rule in India, we have never failed in the severest tests, and we assure His Excellency that the zamindars of Bengal will ever stand fast by the British Standard. In trying to serve their country their first and foremost duty shall ever be to serve their King.

Before I sit down I must refer to the noble Lord who had for the past five years given the best of his life to us, who had unceasingly toiled for us, who had so ardently sympathised in all our aspirations, and who had so keenly felt for us in all our tribulations. May he still retain a warm corner in his heart and may he shine more brilliantly in more exalted spheres, and remember us in his various activities.

Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: On behalf of the Muhammadans of Bengal and the constituency which I have the honour to represent in this Reformed Council, I respectfully beg to accord a most hearty welcome to Their Excellencies the Right Hon'ble the Earl of Lytton, the new Governor of Bengal, and the Countess of Lytton and beg to offer respectful congratulations on His Excellency's taking charge of his high and responsible office. His Lordship's past association with India which happily is the land of his birth and in whose welfare he had all along been taking a warm interest as the Under-Secretary of State under the guidance of the Right Hon'ble Mr. E. S. Montagu, the true and popular champion of India, lends support to the conviction that the administration of Bengal, under his Lordship's régime, will be unique and unqualified in excellence by ushering in an era of peace and prosperity.

I beg to support whole-heartedly the resolution so ably moved by the Chair.

Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY: I associate myself with the words of welcome and congratulations, which have fallen from you and other speakers, to Their Excellencies the Earl and the Countess of Lytton on the former's assumption of the exalted office of the Governor of Bengal. Although His Excellency has the disadvantage of assuming the onerous duties of his office at a critical time, succeeding a great and popular Governor, nevertheless, as the scion of a great and illustrious family whose name is a household word where the English language is spoken; as the son of the Viceroy who held the historic Durbar which proclaimed the assumption of the title of Empress of India by Queen Victoria of revered and beloved memory; as one who saw the light of day under a glorious Indian sky; and as one thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the Reforms and in full sympathy with Indian aspirations. His Excellency has the immense advantage of associations, historic and literary, which weave a web of subtle influences and charm round his personality and are calculated to touch the imagination and evoke the enthusiasm of the people he is called upon to rule.

On the 12th July last, during the debate on the partition of Midnapore, I had foretold the appointment of the Earl of Lytton to the Governorship of Bengal. To me it appears to be a happy augury and a good omen for the restoration of peace in India and the reconcilation of Islam that, when the fate of Islam is hanging in the balance and the eyes of the Moslem world are watching with breathless anxiety the deliberations of the statesman of the world over the future of the City of the Caliph, the Earl of Lytton comes as the Governor of the premier province in India selected by the greatest Secretary of State of recent times, endowed with the far-sighted statesmanship, the vision, the imagination and the understanding of a Disraeli, whose enforced resignation for the championship of the cause of Islam, India shall never cease to mourn, even as the Earl of Lytton was selected by the great Beaconsfield for the Viceroyalty of India when Turkey lay prostrate and helpless before the Russian aggression of 1877.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: On behalf of the Indian Christian community of Bengal, I offer a most hearty welcome to Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Lytton. For the realisation of our tasks two things are necessary,—whole-hearted co-operation on the part of the people, and large-hearted sympathy on the part of the Governor. So far as we are concerned, we pledge and promise our whole-hearted co-operation and we pray that in God's Providence His Excellency's régime will be characterised by large-hearted sympathy.

Dr. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY: As a Muslim and an elected representative of the Muslims, I deem it my high privilege and most pleasant duty to offer a respectful and hearty welcome to our new Governor and

Her Excellency the Countess of Lytton. His Excellency Lord Lytton is not coming to us as a stranger. His is a name, illustrious alike in the aristocracy of intellect and the nobility of the British Empire. His father was the first Viceroy of Her late Majesty the Great Queen Empress Victoria of ever respected and revered memory, and just as the Sovereigns of England became more closely tied to the Indian people and assumed the high title of Emperor of India," in the time of the illustrious father of our present Governor, so we confidently hope and trust that the people of Bengal will be more closely knit together to the British Empire, as fellow citizens and brethren, during the administration of the present Lord Lytton. It was during the Viceroyalty of Lord Lytton that the destructive Russo-Turkish war of 1877 came to an end and a happy and equitable settlement was brought about by the far-sighted statesmanship of the great Disraeli, so we hope the present knotty political problem of the settlement of the Turkish peace terms will in the same way engage the serious attention of the British statesmen of the present day with the clear perspective and angle of vision of a Disraeli or a Montagu, and the matter will receive the strong support of our Lord Lytton, the Governor of the province that counts the largest number of Muslims in the Indian Empire. To us, Bengalis, Lord Lytton's appointment is particularly fortunate. India is the land of his nativity and sympathy with the natives of India and Indian aspirations is a natural or inborn instinct with him. His association at work with Mr. Montagu, in the great task of the progressive realisation of responsible government within the Empire, makes us feel sure that the policy inaugurated by the great Secretary of State, will receive every help and sympathy from him, as well as the schemes for the development of industries, the expansion of education, and lastly, the most important of all, the prevention and removal of the causes of disease and decay from amongst the people of Bengal, the inauguration of which marked the administration of his brilliant immediate predecessor, Lord Ronaldshay.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: On behalf of the people of East Bengal and of Dacca, in particular, I beg to offer a most cordial welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, our new Governor, and his noble consort Lady Lytton. When East Bengal was separated from West Bengal, under the Bengal Partition Scheme, Dacca enjoyed the proud privilege of being the permanent seat of Government, the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and also of all head-offices connected with the administration. After the annulment of the Partition, she was deprived of this privilege; but later on, on persistent prayer and representation, she was granted the small privilege of the seat of Government for a short time, during the months of autumn, when meetings of the Bengal Legislative Council used to be held there. But it is a misfortune that those days are gone, never to come again. After the introduction of the Reforms, Dacca has been permanently deprived of this

small privilege also, and although His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay was pleased to pay two visits to Dacca in the course of a year. His Excellency's stay was for a short period only—on an average less than two months in the course of a year. My prayer to the new Governor is that His Excellency will be pleased to stay at Dacca for a longer period, and thereby grant, to the people of Eastern Bengal, larger opportunities and greater facilities to lay their grievances, their needs and requirements before His Excellency. In conclusion, I heartily associate myself with all that has fallen from the Deputy-President and I earnestly hope that His Excellency's administration will bring peace and happiness all round.

Mr. D. J. COHEN: I beg to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers. As a member of the Jewish community— a community which enjoys perfect peace and freedom under British rule—I am glad to have the opportunity now of welcoming Lord Lytton as the Governor of this Presidency and would express the hope that his previous associations with India will enable him to guide the destinies of this Presidency to a haven of perfect peace, concord and orderly progress. His deep sympathy was demonstrated when I had occasion to approach him in connection with his office as President of the Students' Advisory Committee. We may confidently assure him of the goodwill and sympathy of my community—and may I add of this Council—in all his endeavours for the public good.

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: On behalf of the Namasudra community of Bakarganj, I beg to accord my hearty and respectful welcome to Their Excellencies the Countess and Earl of Lytton. It has scarcely fallen to our lot to welcome an English Governor who claims India as the land of his birth. There have, indeed, been famous English writers, poets and novelists whose land of birth is India, although all of whom have not cared to remember this fact as their writings show. But in Lord Lytton, we have a Governor who, as reports of his speeches made in England demonstrate, has always alluded to this circumstance with some amount of pleasure, and for this we feel grateful to him. There is a famous couplet by an Indian poet to the effect that when you are born everyone laughs, but you cry; mould your life in such a way that when you leave this world for good, everybody will cry, but you will laugh. If I am permitted to extend the sense and spirit of this happy couplet to the sphere of administration, I might say that those who minutely observed the faces that met to say good-bye to the late great Governor, will unanimously agree that the spirit and sense of that happy couplet was realised in the administration of Lord Ronaldshay. To-day, in these times of political difficulties, a fervent prayer rises from the depth of my heart that the Divine Dispensation who has linked the fate of 300 millions of people of India with that of England, may

be so graciously pleased that in the person of the already illustrious representative of the King-Emperor, now the head of the administration of Bengal, the spirit and sense of that couplet may be realised.

With these words, it is my proud privilege to associate myself with the other speakers in according a hearty welcome to Their Excellencies.

Appointment of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler as Governor of Bihar and Orissa.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: It is my pleasant task to-day also to place on record the gratification of this House on the promotion of the late leader of the House.

We congratulate the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler on his elevation to the Governorship of Bihar and Orissa. Those who watched the career of Sir Henry Wheeler realised that he was destined for something great. I have had the honour of his acquaintance probably for a longer time than most of the non-official Indian members of the Council and I think his motto must have been "work and no humbug." He was no lover of red tape. Energy and devotion to duty are the predominant features of his career. He has served the Bengal Government and the Government of India with the highest distinction and his appointment as Governor of Bihar and Orissa is the fitting recognition of that service.

We wish him Godspeed in his new career of life. (Applause.)

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Private printing work in the Bengal Secretariat Press.

281. Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that private printing work is done in the Bengal Secretariat press?

(*b*) What account or check is kept of such work and how is it paid for?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): (*a*) Printing for private persons is occasionally undertaken with the permission of the Superintendent and on payment of the cost but the amount of such work is very small.

(*b*) Bills are made out by the Accountant, Bengal Secretariat, who receives payment and credits the amount to Government. Requisitions and bills are subject to audit by the Examiner, Government Press Accounts.

Appellate side, Paper-Book Department.

282. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) what has been the cost of the maintenance of the paper-book department of the Appellate Side of the High Court in the year 1921;

(*ii*) how many printed paper-books in appeals from original decrees have been prepared by the paper-book department of the High Court, Appellate Side, in 1921;

(*iii*) how many were prepared by the vakils of the appellants in 1920; and

(*iv*) how many of the printed paper-books in appeals from original decrees prepared separately—

(*a*) by the High Court Office, Appellate Side, in 1921;

(*b*) by the vakils of the appellants in 1920,

consist of—

(1) 20 pages or less,

(2) more than 20 but less than 100 pages,

(3) 100 pages or above;

(*v*) what amount of money was realised from litigants for the preparation of the abovementioned paper-books prepared by the paper-book department in 1921, and what was the actual expenditure incurred therefor?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that—

(*i*) under the rules of the High Court, Appellate Side, dated 1st May, 1863, printed paper-books in second appeals used to be prepared for the use of the Judges at the cost of the Government, and that it was optional with the parties to purchase a copy of the same at cost price for their own use;

(*ii*) (*a*) by the rules of the High Court dated the 1st July, 1877, translations of the pleadings were required to be inserted in the paper-book, and from that time down to September, 1920, the parties were required to pay Rs. 15 only to meet the actual cost of the translation and printing of the pleadings only, and (*b*) the same rule still prevails in the Patna High Court; and

(*iii*) down to September, 1920, the parties were not charged the cost of printing the judgments and memorandum of appeals and orders of remand, if any, in second appeals and that Government bore the expense?

(*c*) What is the average amount of expense which the Government of India had to bear annually on this account down to September, 1920?

(*d*) Does the Government now decline to bear this expense; if so, on what ground?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*)(*i*) Rupees 45,100 for new staff; Rs. 42,300 for previous existing staff.

(*ii*) Thirty-seven.

(*iii*) One hundred and sixty-two were filed by the vakils during 1920. Without a detailed inquiry it cannot be ascertained during what periods these had been under preparation.

(*iv*) The Hon'ble High Court has been unable in the time available to collect this information which would involve a detailed examination of the books. Supplementary statistics called for in this and the last preceding question will be given when available.

(*v*) Rupees 7,377-10-4 was realised for the 37 books referred to above. It is not possible to say how much of the cost of the department is debitable to these books and how much to books incomplete at the end of 1921.

(*b*) (*i*) Such was the practice.

(*ii*) (*a*) Yes. The member is referred to rules 88, 90 and 91 of the Rules of the High Court (Appellate Side).

(*ii*) (*b*) Government is not aware of this.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*c*) It is estimated at Rs. 20,713-13-6.

(*d*) Yes. Not only does Government fail to find any good reason for treating these appeals as exceptions to the general rule that the parties to civil appeals should themselves bear the cost of preparing the papers for the use of Learned Judges; but also having regard to the fact that a very large proportion of these appeals are unsuccessful, the Government feels that it would be particularly unjustifiable to finance this class of litigation from the general public revenues.

Service of processes from Civil and Revenue courts.

283. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that processes from Civil and Revenue Courts remain sometimes unserved?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the provision, if any, made during the years 1915 to 1920 for the travelling allowance (apart from boat-hire) of process-serving peons in the Civil and Revenue Courts, respectively, in the district of the 24-Parganas?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware of the fact that when process-serving peons have to walk 20 or 25 miles for the service of processes, such processes do not usually reach their destination?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry into the matter in consultation with the landlords of the 24-Parganas?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (*a*) Yes; processes are sometimes returned unserved either for want of an identifier or on account of insufficiency of time. Returns are periodically tested by the head nazir and any delinquencies detected are dealt with by the District Judge.

(*b*) Under Government resolution No. 184-185 dated the 10th June, 1914, the travelling expense of Rs. 3,909-15-6 apart from boat-hire was paid to the process-servers for one year from 1st July, 1914.

Travelling allowance paid for the sadar subdivision to peons for revenue processes was Rs. 1,216-8-0 in the years 1915-1920.

(*c*) No; it has been ascertained from the Collector and Judge that they have received no such complaint.

(*d*) No.

The Budget of the Government of Bengal, 1922-23.

Demands for Grants.

37.—Miscellaneous Departments.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): I move "that a sum of Rs. 2,28,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '37.—Miscellaneous Departments.'"

Under this head are included the demands for certain small but not unimportant departments mainly connected with Commerce and Industry. The most important of these are the Factories Department, the Smoke-Nuisances Commission and the Rent Controller, and there are certain small items connected with trade statistics and the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages

The following amendment, standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 40,600 under head '37A.—Allowances,' be reduced to Rs. 20,600."

***Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** I move "that the sum of Rs. 1,05,000 which it is proposed to grant under head 'Inspector of Factories' be reduced by Rs. 19,000."

Referring to page 57 of the Financial Statement, I find that this demand comes up to Rs. 1,22,000 and that the demand for this head last year was only Rs. 91,000. Therefore, there has been an increase of

Rs. 31,000 under this head. The increase has been explained to be due to an allowance at the rate of Rs. 500 per mensem for the services of a lady doctor to investigate into the condition of labouring women before and after childbirth in the industrial areas. Another cause for the increase is stated to be that a provision has been made for the payment of rent of the office in the building occupied by the Inspector of Factories. After allowing for these two items, I find that there is a difference of Rs. 19,000, and I see that this can be due to no other item but to the increased provision for the additional inspectors for the whole year. We see one of the Inspectors has been enjoying leave since April, 1921, but provision has been made for all these additional inspectors for the whole year. I therefore object to this increased expenditure for additional staff of supervising officers.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I did not follow all the member's calculations, but it is a fact, as he has pointed out, that the increase under this head is due to the increase in the staff of Factory Inspectors. That increase again is due to the new Factories Act which the Government of India have recently passed. Under that Act, the most important change from a financial point of view is that every work, every industrial undertaking worked by power will now be treated as coming under the Factories Act, if it employs more than 20 persons. At present, generally speaking, only those concerns which employ more than 50 people are liable to inspection under the Act. In order to meet the heavy increase of work which will be entailed by the passing of this new Act, we have now got three new Inspectors of Factories. We should have had more, had it not been for our financial position, and, in the last few days, we have had a long communication from the Government of India pointing out to us the additional duties and responsibilities which will fall on the factory staff under the new Act, which will come into force very shortly. I anticipate, therefore, that there is a possibility that we shall have to come to the Council later on for a supplementary demand for the factory inspecting staff, but for the present, I can assure the House that this staff is the minimum with which we can work, and we have to provide for their travelling allowances and so on, in addition to their pay. It is possible that, for various reasons, the travelling allowance estimate will not be completely worked up to and that there will be a saving of some Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 on this account, but I think we would do well to keep that in hand for a possible expansion of the work during the year.

A reference has been made to the lady doctor whose services have been lent to us by the Council of the Countess of Dufferin Fund, and whose bare expenses of Rs. 500 a month we are paying. This lady doctor is engaged, at the instance of the Government of India, on a most important investigation into the maternity question among female workers. These are questions which have been pushed to the front in recent years in

India as well as in other countries; and it is our duty as a civilised Government to investigate them. In fact, I may say, that generally speaking, the whole of this extra expenditure on the factory staff is ultimately due to India's inclusion as a member of the League of Nations and to the International Labour Conferences which have been held during the past two years at Washington and Geneva. Having regard to the obligations which we must undertake if India is to play its proper part in the League of Nations, I think this demand is fully justifiable.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: May I offer a personal explanation? I did not object to the provision which relates to the lady doctor. I simply objected to the provision for additional inspectors.

The motion was then put and lost.

Maulvi HAMID-UD-DIN KHAN: I move "that the demand for the Smoke-Nuisances Commission be refused."

At the outset I am sorry to say that I do not know the working of this Smoke-Nuisances Commission and I do not know how long it is in existence, or what amount of work it has done by this time, but year after year I see a provision in the Budget for this Commission. I see in the Budget for last year that there was a provision of Rs. 23,000 under this head, and this year the provision is for Rs. 34,000. I do not know whether the Smoke-Nuisances Commission is responsible for the smoke that settles in our nostrils and comes out every morning on our pocket handkerchiefs giving it the appearance of the skin of a spotted deer. At the same time I do not know whether they are responsible for the extra expenditure incurred for the washing of our clothes which becomes dirty owing to the same cause in Calcutta. In my humble opinion this Smoke-Nuisances Commission instead of doing good service, is a nuisance in itself, and so this demand should be refused and the Commission abolished.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I am very glad attention has been drawn to this item. I may at once say it is not my intention that this demand should be omitted altogether, but I think it is necessary to point out that one is tempted to ask what earthly purpose is served by this provision year after year. As a resident of Calcutta and one who spends only one or two months of the year out of it, I may say that this Smoke-Nuisances Commission has done practically little or nothing. Of course the Hon'ble Member may bring forward papers showing numerous prosecutions and all that—I know in the Calcutta Corporation there are numberless prosecutions for nuisances, etc.—but as a matter of fact this Commission has done little or no good to the people of Calcutta. It was started at the initiative of Lord Curzon, so far as I remember. It was a very good idea; experts are on the Committee, they hold sittings, but in practice their proceedings never see the light of day. Perhaps they may be found in blue books; but I can say this that the Commission is practically useless in the city. There is no practical work to show and I think

it is grave condemnation that although we have spent large sums year after year, no tangible benefit has been conferred on the city. This department is under the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr and I think he ought to look into the working of this Commission and its executive functions. I know I am a member of the Corporation, it is quite possible to manufacture tables of prosecutions and all that, but all this is of no avail; I think the attention of the Government should be drawn to this matter and that this Committee should be formed on a more representative basis so that public attention may be drawn to it, and the public take more interest in the working of the Committee.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: Maulvi Hamid-ud-din Khan boldly proposes the abolition of the Smoke-Nuisances Commission, and he starts his speech with the remark that he does not know anything about the subject. Time after time, I have asked members of this Council if they want any information on a subject which they wish to bring before the Council, to apply to the Member in charge or the Secretary in charge of the Department concerned, and surely this is a case in which a great deal of the time of the House might have been saved if the members who have spoken on the subject had come to us and asked to see the literature which exists on the subject.

Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur is an old resident of Calcutta, but he says he does not know whether this Commission has done anything. Anybody who has lived in the town of Calcutta for any time must, I am sure, disagree with the Rai Bahadur; in regard to smoke-nuisances, it must be admitted that things are very much better than they were 20 years ago.

The control of smoke-nuisance is a matter which receives attention in every industrial city in the world; in a great many places it is the duty of the Municipality, and I should be only too glad if the Calcutta Corporation would relieve Government of this duty; but as matters stand it is a function of the Government, and it is a matter for which Government requires money. Every year we publish the report of the Smoke-Nuisances Commission in the Gazette with a Government resolution, reviewing the activities of the Commission, and showing the work that is done, and I would suggest that it is the duty of members who come to this Council and propose the abolition of the Smoke-Nuisances Commission, at least to look at the last report of the Commission and the Government resolution. The last resolution was published on the 4th October; it went through the hands of the Standing Committee of the Commerce Department, and it contains a very high commendation of the work done by the Department. The Rai Bahadur has said that all this Commission does is to institute prosecutions; perhaps the Rai Bahadur will be surprised to hear that there was only one prosecution instituted last year. The Commission does not work by prosecutions and repressive measures;

it works by friendly advice and counsel to the managers of factories and other industrial concerns, and ultimately by warnings, and it does its work most successfully on these lines. Perhaps the Rai Bahadur will be surprised to hear that the success of the Calcutta Smoke-Nuisances Commission has been commended in the United Kingdom, in connection with legislation in the House of Lords

That is a striking testimony from an independent source as to the value of this Commission. Time is short and even if I had the time at my disposal, I am not qualified to give a lecture on the scientific methods which the Commission follows in carrying out its duties. But I do ask the Council to accept the testimony which I have already quoted as to the success of the work of the Commission and to the value attached to it by the managers of industrial concerns as well as by those members of the general public who are in a position to appraise the value of the work done. One of the most creditable of recent performances of the Commission is the control of the smoke from the oil-burning steamers which have been coming into the Hugli within the last two years. There, as in other respects, the Commission has been most successful, and they have received thanks from shipowners who have not only appreciated the Commission's efforts to minimise what might be a public nuisance but also the efforts of the Commission to assist shipowners and to secure a reduction of their expenditure on fuel. I can only say that if the Rai Bahadur or anybody else wants further information about this Commission, I shall be happy to supply it. The demand which we are asking this Council to vote to-day is practically the same which has been made in previous years except that we are now asking for an Assistant Inspector on Rs. 400 a month. That post has been vacant for some time owing to the difficulty of getting a suitable man to fill it; but the Chief Inspector strongly advocates the need for further assistance in this work and the figures which he gives in explanation justify his demand. I therefore ask this Council to pass this particular item.

The motion was then put and lost.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move "that the demand of Rs. 75,000 which it is proposed to grant under head '37D.—Miscellaneous,' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

My motion is much narrower in scope than the previous one as I neither propose the abolition of the Smoke-Nuisances Commission nor do I deny its practical utility. But I simply object to the increase which has been proposed in the Budget estimate for 1922-23, as compared with the revised estimate this year. At page 52 of the grey book, it is said that this increase which occurs mainly under this head is due partly to the provision of Rs. 4,800 for filling up the post of Assistant Inspector which is at present vacant and consequently also to larger provision for travelling allowances. It is to this part of the Budget that I object

and my submission is that the post need not be filled up at present. With these few remarks, I beg to commend my motion to the acceptance of the Council.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I have already explained that this extra sum of Rs. 5,000 is provided for the pay of an additional Assistant Inspector of Smoke-Nuisances. We have not been able to fill up the post so far, as we have not been able to secure a suitable man, but there can be no doubt from what the Commission say that an extra man is required and that we ought to fill up the post as soon as we can find a suitable man. I would therefore ask the Council to allow the demand to stand.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 2,28,000 under head '37.—Miscellaneous Departments,' be reduced by Rs. 36,000."

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 2,28,000 for expenditure under the head "37.—Miscellaneous Departments" was then put and agreed to.

40.—Exchange on transactions with London.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I move "that a sum of Rs. 10,18,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '40.—Exchange on transactions with London.'"

This is more or less a formal item. Under the instructions of the Government of India, we take, in the departmental budgets, the rupee to be equivalent to two shillings, that is to say, ten rupees are equal to a pound. Then, under this head of exchange on transactions with London, we adjust any loss or gain that we may make on exchange at the two shillings rate. This year, unfortunately, there is every prospect of a loss, and under instructions from the Government of India, we have assumed that the average rate will be one shilling and four pence. That, Sir, is the reason for asking for this grant.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

41.—Civil Works.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I move "that a sum of Rs. 92,57,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '41.—Civil Works.'"

It will be observed from the Budget Estimates that the estimated expenditure for 1921-22 was Rs. 1,28,05,400, while the revised estimate

for that year has been estimated at Rs. 1,29,06,000. The amount which the Council is now asked to vote, therefore, shows a reduction of nearly Rs. 36,50,000. This reduction is mainly due, as explained in the Financial Statement, to the fact that in the ensuing year's Budget no provision has been made for new original works of construction, but only for obligatory works in progress and for repairs together with the sanctioned establishment and tools and plant charges.

Under the head Original Works—Civil Buildings, it is proposed to spend Rs. 77,000 on works required for subjects which are " Reserved " and Rs. 28,37,500 for " transferred " subjects. The works will be found detailed in Appendix B to the Financial Statement and are actually in progress. It is obligatory that they should, as far as possible, be completed during the ensuing year.

The sums provided for " Reserve for minor works " under the various departments are intended for works of small value in connection with buildings occupied by the departments. These small works are within the powers of the heads of the respective departments to sanction. In many instances, these works too will be in progress at the end of the present year and must be completed.

Under " Communications " no provision has been made under the reserved voted head, while Rs. 7,29,000 is provided under the transferred head. The works are detailed in Appendix B and here again the works are in progress and, being of importance, should not be suspended. There is a reduction of about 30 per cent. under this head compared with the actuals of 1920-21.

No provision has been made under " Miscellaneous Public Improvements " as this head has been abolished under recent orders of the Government of India. Expenditure on these objects will, in future, be a charge against either " Buildings " or " Communication " according to the intention with which the improvement is undertaken.

Under the head " Repairs " Rs. 2,70,000 is provided for reserved works and Rs. 30,21,000 for those under transferred departments. While there is a slight excess under the former compared with the current year, the provision for the latter shows a slight decrease on the revised estimate for the present year and a considerable decrease on the actuals of 1920-21. Such a decrease cannot be said to be a real measures of economy or a source of satisfaction to the department, for the Council will recognise that each year there are additions to the list of buildings and other works which the department is called on to maintain these additions are due to new buildings and works completed during the former years.

The provision has been regulated by the sum which the Finance Member was able to set aside out of the total available revenue of the Province for " 41.—Civil Works." The demands received from the officers in charge of maintenance and repairs have been reduced

by approximately 10 per cent.; the result will inevitable be a lower standard of repair and, consequently some depreciation in the buildings which may have to be made up in future years by increased expenditure over the normal.

The head " Establishment " calls for no particular remarks; the reduction, under the transferred head, compared with the revised estimate of the current year of about Rs. 1,25,000, has been effected by reducing the amounts usually found necessary for travelling allowance, contingencies, and temporary ministerial establishment. It is hoped that this deficiency may eventually be met from the contributions to be received from the Posts and Telegraph Departments on account of establishment charges incurred on works undertaken for that department. Similar contributions are also expected from Central Revenues on account of works undertaken for Departments under the Central Government.

Under the head " Grant-in-aid " the provision is normal compared with former years, but, as explained in the note on page 60 of the Financial Statement, this expenditure, which in former years has been accounted for under " 41.—Civil Works in charge of Civil officers," will, with effect from 1922-23, be shown under " 41.—Civil Works."

The head " Other items " includes Tools and Plant and Stock, while there are slight increases on the reserved side, there is a decrease under transferred against the revised estimate for 1921-22; the net decrease under the head amounts to Rs. 80,000.

No further remarks appear to be called for; I therefore, Sir, move that a sum of Rs. 92,57,000 be granted for expenditure under the head " 41.—Civil Works."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I move " that the demand for Rs. 65,000 for construction of settlement buildings at Khulna be refused."

On page 11 of the blue book it is seen that the Khulna settlements will come to an end in 1922-23. It is seen, however, that the work is still being carried on although there are no buildings. Having regard to the large deficit I think it is highly desirable to manage the work anyhow by hiring and renting some houses. It is seen that Rs. 1,00,000 has been demanded for the construction of new police lines of which Rs. 66,000 has already been spent. But the work of the town is being managed without the existence of the lines. Under the circumstances, the construction of police lines and the settlement buildings should be deferred for the present. With these words, I move the motion.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I beg to support my friend's Shah Sahib's motion. I do not know what view Government will take of this motion. I was, Sir, one of those who objected to the extension of the

settlement operations to Khulna this year, owing to the scarcity and famine which prevailed there, but I certainly did not object to the provision for the settlement buildings at Khulna in the last Budget. Now we see that although some such sum as is now demanded was granted for the settlement buildings last year, only Rs. 22,000 could have been spent for this purpose and much of the buildings remained to be erected. On referring to page 11 of the grey book we also find that it is expected that the survey operations in Pabna-Bogra will be finished this year and in Khulna in 1922-23; at the same time we find that the demand is made for Rs. 65,000 for the construction of settlement buildings at Khulna. This has given rise to doubts in our minds and has made us think that although this demand is ostensibly for settlement buildings, it may, in reality, be a demand for other administrative purposes. And such doubts are not altogether groundless. Last July, I inquired what was the cost of erecting the settlement buildings at Jessore and the reply was that the cost was about Rs. 1,50,000. Then, again, I inquired to what purposes those settlement buildings would be put in future and the reply was that " unless the Settlement Officer's residence was required for the Additional Judge, it would be available for the Collector who then lived in a private house. The materials of the press shed could be used in another settlement. It had not yet been decided to what use the vernacular office could be put, but the Jessore setttlement would require all the buildings for two years more and the buildings might afterwards be used for the Khulna settlement." What I am afraid of, therefore, is that by the time the buildings will be completed, the settlement operations will, probably, be finished. Or if the settlement operations in Khulna be protracted then, I think the Jessore settlement buildings can in future be used for Khulna settlement purposes. I cannot, therefore, understand what may be the purpose or destiny of this grant. And hence I object to it.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I beg to support this motion. It appears that the settlement operations are going to be over. If that be so, where is the necessity of spending a large sum on buildings? I labour under that idea. As was the case in Jessore, there was a building and we find that that building was utilised for other purposes, as will appear from the proceedings to which reference has been made by the previous speaker. On these grounds, I submit to the Council whether it will be proper to allow the grant asked for.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I believe the gentlemen who have spoken on the question of the settlement operations at Khulna have been misled by the heading " Survey and Settlement " on page 11 of the Grey Book; but if they would look at that page carefully, and also to the text, they will find that it is said there, that it is expected that the survey operations in Pabna-Bogra

will be finished this year and in Khulna in 1922-23. It does not mean that if the survey operations are completed, the settlement operations will be necessarily finished too. As a matter of fact when the survey operations are finished, the settlement operations begin. Therefore, it is wrong to think that because the survey operations will be completed by 1922-23, the settlement operations will end by that time; that is not so.

Now, as regards the actual item for which we are asking this amount, I should like to point out that this is nothing new. Last year, when this Council decided to vote for the settlement operations of the province, they voted Rs. 40,000 for these buildings; out of that Rs. 40,000, it is true we shall not be able to spend more than Rs. 20,000 or something more, but certainly not Rs. 40,000 in the current year. But it is well-known that since it was decided last October that no new construction work should be taken up, it has been considered necessary to complete the works now in progress; and in this particular instance, the work in progress is one which is essential for the purposes of the survey and settlement operations at Khulna. The sanctioned estimate of the work amounts to Rs. 85,000, of which, as I say, we expect to spend at least Rs. 20,000, and that is why we are asking for the remainder of the amount, namely, Rs. 65,000. The Council has already accepted a two-party basis for the survey and settlement operations; having done so it has committed itself to the survey and settlement operations in the districts which we have provided for in this year's Budget and one of those districts is Khulna. Now, perhaps it is not necessary for me to say much about this; but, on the other hand, I am quite prepared to supply the information that Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri has asked for, as to what purpose these buildings will be put after the settlement operations are over. The office is expected to cost Rs. 38,000 and odd; it will be used for other offices when no longer required for the settlement. The Settlement Officer's house is proposed to be used for the Irrigation Engineer's house when the settlement is over, and this will cost a little over Rs. 31,200, whilst the alteration of part of the collectorate so as to be used as a settlement record room will cost about Rs. 15,500. I think this is sufficient for me to prove that this amount has not been wasted, that when the settlement operations are in progress they are needed and that after the settlement operations are over, we propose to put them to other useful purposes. In view of these considerations, I trust that the Council will not refuse the amount we have provided for in the Budget.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendment, standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 65,000 for the settlement buildings at Khulna be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I move "that the demand for Rs. 29,000 for construction of Pabna-Bogra Settlement Buildings at Serajganj, be refused."

Having regard to the answer given by the Hon'ble the Member in charge on my motion regarding settlement buildings at Khulna, I would like to say nothing more except that Rs. 96,000 has been budgeted under this item. Rs. 79,000 has already been spent under this head. Therefore Rs. 17,000 only remains as balance. But in respect of this amount another additional amount of Rs. 12,000 has been charged for. I would press that this excess demand of Rs. 12,000 should be cut.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The Shah Sahib desires that the demand for Rs. 29,000 for the construction of the Pabna-Bogra settlement buildings at Serajganj be refused. The original sanctioned estimate amounted to Rs. 96,000. It will be seen, however, from the foot-note to page 72 of the Financial Statement, that the revised estimate is Rs. 1,08,000. Therefore, the Shah Sahib is quite right that there is Rs. 12,000 provided for more than in the revised estimate; but, of course, unfortunately these estimates, when revised, have a knack of going up; Rs. 24,000 was spent up to the 31st March, 1921, and it is expected that Rs. 55,000 will be spent before the end of this month. Therefore, we shall have spent more than half or in fact three-fourths of the amount required for the purpose. Consequently, we are only providing for the sum of Rs. 29,000 which we require for next year. The buildings are a vernacular office, a press shed and quarters for the Settlement Officer. The vernacular office is nearly completed. The press shed has made good progress; and the floorings, doors and windows remain to be done. Bricks have been collected for the Settlement Officer's quarters. The vernacular office will be required first as the records come to office after attestation. The press will be required a little later after the final scrutiny of the record. The work of attestation is going on in the first block this season and when attestation is over, the vernacular office will be ready. The press shed should also be ready in time. The motion must be opposed on the ground that the Council decided last year that these buildings should be constructed and provision has been made accordingly. On the ground of economy, I think the mover should withdraw his amendment. If he has understood my reply I think he will probably withdraw his amendment; if not, I am quite prepared to explain it in vernacular.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendments were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI and SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 3,04,000 for the

construction of survey office buildings at Alipore under head ' 5.—Land Revenue, ' be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 50,000 for constructing settlement buildings at Suri, be refused."

The following amendments were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 11,000 for constructing combined liquor warehouse and *ganja gola* with peon shed at Diamond Harbour, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 5,000 as reserve for Minor Works (Excise buildings), be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 25,000 as reserve for Minor Works (General Administration buildings), be refused "

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 34,000 as reserve for Minor Works grant for Commissioners of Divisions, be reduced by Rs. 17,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 5,000 for Collector's residence at Dacca, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 60,000 for the reconstruction of subdivisional buildings at Alipore-Duars, Jalpaiguri district, be reduced by Rs. 30,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 44,000 for the construction of residence for the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bogra, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 24,000 for the construction of a combined court for the Sessions Judge, Subordinate Judge and Additional Munsif, Bogra, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 24,000 as reserve for Minor Works, Judicial buildings, be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I move "that the demand for Rs. 96,000 for the construction of a sub-jail at Patuakhali, be reduced by Rs. 46,000."

The Jail at Patuakhali is being run on excellent lines up till now. I would therefore wish to reduce the grant by Rs. 46,000.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): This sub-jail is in course of construction and the probable expenditure up to the 31st March, 1922, will be somewhere near Rs. 20,000. The Council voted on the last occasion—I do not know if Shah Sahib remembers this—Rs. 50,000 for expenditure during this year. The work was considered very necessary because the existing sub-jail building was too small and further there was a danger of its coming down because of the erosion of the river. The new sub-jail will be quite as necessary now as it was last year, and I do not see how we can abandon this project. The work is already going on and the old sub-jail is in danger of collapsing and so there is every necessity for this provision being made. I hope this will satisfy the Shah Sahib.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendment, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs 23,000 as reserve for Minor Works, jail buildings, be reduced by Rs. 11,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move "that the sum of Rs. 1,00,000, which it is proposed to grant for constructing new police lines at Khulna, be refused."

We find from page 74 of the Financial Statement that this scheme involves an expenditure of more than Rs. 2,00,000. I do not know what the estimate will come up to when revised. But I find that Rs. 27,000 was spent up to 31st March, 1921, and that the probable expenditure in 1921-22 is put down at Rs. 40,000 only. In view of the fact that we are considering only a half Budget and in view of the financial stringency, I beg to propose that the construction of these new police lines at Khulna be postponed for the present.

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: The police at Khulna are living in a house with *pucca* plinth and wall and thatched roof since the foundation of the subdivision at Khulna. The Government now proposes to remove the lines from their present site and erect a *pucca* building at the cost of Rs. 1,00,000. I cannot understand how the Government waited so long and selected such an embarrassing time to be an occasion for demanding this grant. I think if the Government could defer the question so long they may defer it at least another year when we hope the financial position may improve. Under the circumstances, I am of opinion that the demand should be refused this year.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated, is as follows:—

I have dealt with this matter at length when moving my motion regarding settlement buildings at Khulna. I have withdrawn that motion having regard to the answer given by the Hon'ble the Member in charge. I shall, however, be justified in moving this motion very

strongly. Sir, we are in want of funds. But still we do not hesitate to spend. Up till now the work is being done smoothly although there are no police buildings. I fail to understand why the work cannot go on for another two or three years, as even if the additional demand is granted it will take two to three years to complete these work. There will be settlement buildings at Khulna and those buildings will remain vacant after two to three years, that is when the settlement work is finished. After that period the police might conveniently occupy those buildings. If, in matters like these, the Government do not care to listen to us, then we will naturally think that, owing to the paucity of votes on our side, they are taking advantage of this opportunity. I hope that the Government will consider very carefully this matter and will try to remove the stigma already placed upon them.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I understand that a sum of not Rs. 1,67,000 but Rs. 2,10,000 or something thereabouts is to be spent for construction of new police lines at Khulna. I find that this year a sum of Rs. 67,000 is already spent or is being spent for the purpose of constructing this building, and further—I am indebted to the Hon'ble Member for the information—that a sum of Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 31,000 has been spent for acquiring land. My information, as far as I have been able to gather, is that the present site has been abandoned: the buildings have been blown down by the recent storm, and the present site is considered to be unsuitable and, therefore, a fresh site has been acquired and buildings have been constructed to the extent of Rs. 67,000, and further, another Rs. 1,00,000 is wanted to complete these buildings. My information is that the building will accommodate about 110 people, and if that is so, to my mind, this seems to be rather extravagant. Further, the information that is laid before the House by the Shah Sahib is that as soon as the settlement work is finished, the settlement buildings can be made available for the police. That is an additional ground for considering whether economy should not be made in this direction, and having regard to the fact that we are all struggling to reduce our expenditure and that we have already spent Rs. 67,000, and further, that the settlement buildings will be available to the police, cannot some attempt be made to save this money? Of course, it is for the Hon'ble Member to consider this suggestion, and I submit that it is a fit and proper case for reconsidering the whole question.

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): I am very sorry these motions for reduction of grants to police buildings have been moved because they drag from the cupboard a skeleton which we would rather have hidden. I see one member is moving for the refusal of all grants to police buildings except two. I have the utmost sympathy with what I conceive to be his meaning in bringing forward these motions. I can only conceive that his object is to call attention to a crying scandal. I myself feel galled when

I read in the papers of a neighbouring province, when I read in the papers in England, of the disgraceful way in which Bengal is housing its police. It must be heart-breaking to the members of this Council to provide money year after year and still find that the reproach is not removed, and it is heart-burning to the officers of Government to ask for money year after year, but it is still more heart-breaking for the officers of the Police Department to continue year after year in buildings which have been condemned several years ago. I therefore conceive that what the mover of those motions has in his mind is to get things put right by calling attention to the great delay in housing our police on proper lines.

As regards this particular motion, the police lines at Khulna were entirely obliterated by the cyclone of 1919 and there was nothing left. They were situated between the jail and the civil courts on the banks of the river in such a way that they kept all the air out of the civil courts and they abutted on the civil court latrines. The site was absolutely unsuitable, and as soon as these buildings were removed by the hand of Providence, the local residents implored Government to make more suitable arrangements and to leave this land open for the ventilation of the station. Government, therefore, chose another site and acquired this land at a cost of Rs. 31,000. Since then, Rs. 67,000 has been spent in commencing the buildings, but the fact remains that since 1919, the whole of the headquarters force at Khulna has been living in dilapidated temporary structures on the Khulna maidan, which have been reported by every officer not only of the police, but also of the Civil Service—the district officers of Khulna—to be entirely unsuitable. I would put it to the Council, therefore, that it is our duty to house these men as quickly as we can in a suitable building. I would strongly deprecate the proposal to hang this matter up again in order that some three or four years hence we may have a possible opportunity of crowding the constables into a settlement building which was not built for barrack purposes but for an office. I would therefore ask the Council to reject this motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following amendments were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 19,000 for constructing police building at Abhaynagar be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 10,000 for constructing family quarters for one Sub-Inspector and two Head Constables and a *pucca* well, for the police-station at Singra, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 15,000 for constructing police buildings at Kumargram, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 10,000 for constructing a small investigating centre at Sarail be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 14,000 for the construction of buildings at the police-station at Sibchar, be refused."

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER and SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 23,000 for constructing an investigating centre at Sadarpur, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 10,000 for constructing police buildings at Mukhsudpur (Faridpur), be refused."

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: " That the demand for Rs. 5,000 for supply of lights and fans in the Military police lines at Pilkhana (Dacca), be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT, Professor S. C. MUKHERJI, SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ, and Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 52,000 for the acquisition of land required for the construction of quarters for the married sergeants of the Calcutta Police, Lalbazar, be refused."

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT, SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ, Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK, and Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: " That the demand of Rs. 1,29,000 for constructing a police hospital including filling tank and raising land and subsidiary buildings at Bhowanipore, be refused."

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK, Professor S. C. MUKHERJI, and SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 10,000 for electric installation in the proposed police hospital at Bhowanipore, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 15,000 for constructing a small investigating centre at Burichang, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 12,000 for the reconstruction of police buildings at Pilkhana, be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 7,000 as reserve for Minor Works, Calcutta Police, be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: " That the demand for Rs. 28,000 as reserve for Minor Works, Mufassal Police, be reduced by Rs. 6,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI and Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: " That the sum of Rs. 50,000 which it is proposed to grant for the construction of new cook-rooms, servants' quarters, quarters and garage for professors in the Bengal Engineering College, be refused."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: " That the sum of Rs. 1,00,000 which it is proposed to grant for the (*i*) extension and improvements of the Bengal Engineering College, including acquisition of land at Sibpur, and (*ii*) conversion of garage into quarters for Laboratory Assistant of the said college, be refused."

As the members were absent, the following motions were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: " That the demand for Rs. 65,000 under head '32.—Medical ' for constructing a Lunatic Observation Ward at Bhowanipore, be refused."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: " That the demand for Rs. 11,000 under head ' 32.—Medical ' for electric installation in the proposed Lunatic Observation Ward at Bhowanipore, be refused."

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: " That the sum of Rs. 92,57,000 which it is proposed to grant under the head ' 41.—Civil Works, ' be reduced by Rs. 8,37,500 being a partial reduction of the amount of Rs. 28,38,000 asked for civil buildings (transferred)."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move " that the sum of Rs 2,21,000 which it is proposed to grant for laying certain roads in Calcutta with macadam metalling, be refused."

In view of the fact that this is only a half Budget and that we are in financial difficulties, I do not think that it is a proper provision to make in such a Budget and in such times. This item of expenditure has been put down as a provincial expenditure, but I do not see why the Calcutta Municipality should not undertake to do this item of work. Certainly, when we are not in a position to grant substantial assistance and such a sum to the Calcutta University or for the purpose of promoting industries or agriculture, I think we shall not be justified in spending so much money simply for laying certain roads in Calcutta with macadam metalling at the expense of the mufassal tax-payers. I therefore appeal to the good sense of this Council to refuse this grant for the present.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The Calcutta maidan is outside the limits of the Corporation, and, for reasons which it is unnecessary to explain now, the roads on this maidan are maintained from Provincial Revenues. Until a few years ago, they were all surfaced with water-bound macadam, which has to be renewed at short intervals. Owing to increased traffic of every description, the advent of motor vehicles and in order to keep pace with modern methods, Government decided that a surface more suitable to modern traffic and more lasting was necessary. After experimenting it was eventually decided to adopt " tar-macadam " as a surface for these roads. Sanction was accordingly given, in the first instance, to a scheme amounting to over Rs. 7,25,000 for laying certain of the more

important roads with this surface and when these are completed, sanction will be asked to lay the remainder of the roads with a better surface than they have at present. It has been estimated that the cost of a tar-macadam surface for all roads on the maidan will amount to about Rs. 12,00,000.

Incidentally, I would inform the members that the tar-macadam surface is cheaper than the asphaltum surface adopted by the Corporation for town roads while it is expected that it will have as long a life as asphaltum.

The expenditure incurred up to the end of the current year in surfacing the roads included in the programme for 1922-23 will have amounted to about Rs. 1,63,000, and it is desirable that the sanctioned programme should not be curtailed. If funds are not provided for a tar-macadam surface, it will still be necessary to relay the surfaces of these roads as a measure of ordinary repairs, as the present surfaces are worn out and will have to be renewed with water-bound macadam, the cost of which will result in additional expenditure under the head "Repairs—Communication". Moreover, a water-bound macadam surface has to be renewed at shorter intervals. In the long run, therefore, the laying of a tar-macadam surface is a measure of economy, besides providing a better surface far more suited to modern traffic requirements.

I put it to the Council, therefore, that it would be a retrograde and an uneconomical policy to stop the work already begun which it is intended to carry on gradually each year according to the amounts which can reasonably be made available.

I therefore oppose the motion.

The motion was then put and a division was called.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I would like to call the attention of members to the rule which lays down that members will proceed along the passage in single file and re-enter the Chamber through the doors at the upper end, so that the members should not re-enter by the same door by which they go to the lobbies.

The motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Rishi, Babu Rasik Chandra.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.

NOES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Biss, Mr. E. E.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
De, Babu Panindralal.
Deare, Lieutenant-Colonel S. H.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
French, Mr. F. C.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Hussain, Maulvi Muhammad Madassur.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Kerr, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Lang, Mr. J.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon
Parrott, Mr. P.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Spry, Mr. H. E
Stephenson, Mr. H. L.
Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
Walsh, Mr. C. P.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 23 and the Noes 42, the motion was lost.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move "that the demand of Rs. 65,000 for widening the Eden Gardens road and constructing footpath on either side of it, be refused."

It has been said by an eminent Indian, not of course a Bengali, that the Bengalis have got certain characteristics of the French, and one of them is that if you pay a compliment to their capital city, you are sure to capture their hearts. It was probably on such an assumption that this demand was going to be made. In course of reply to my last motion, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department was pleased to observe that the Calcutta Municipality should not be expected to do anything to macadamise the roads on the maidans because these were outside their jurisdiction. Are the Eden Gardens too, so situated? And, if that be the case, cannot the Eden Gardens come within the Port area? And can it not be expected that the Port Commissioners should see to its improvements? Why should the overburdened mufassal people pay for this? Certainly we should have more sympathy for them.

With these few words, I move my motion.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: In regard to the provision of Rs. 65,000 for widening the Eden Gardens road on the Calcutta maidan, and providing foot-paths on either side, I must confess that the name adopted for this work is somewhat misleading. The work of widening and providing foot-paths has in fact already been completed. The sanctioned estimate for the work, however, includes also provision for laying a tar-macadam surface on the widened road in pursuance of the policy adopted for treating the more important roads on the maidan in this way. The laying of the new surface alone remains to complete the work in accordance with the estimate,

and this would have been taken up during 1921-22, had it not been for the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Calcutta. In order not to interfere with the greatly increased traffic expected in connection with the Royal visit, it was decided, as the work could not be completed in time, to postpone it and take it up at the next convenient opportunity which will be early in the winter of 1922-23. If this provision is refused, then a new surface of water-bound macadam will have to be laid in the coming rains, as an additional cost to "repairs"; this will be uneconomical and provide a less satisfactory surface for modern traffic conditions.

Therefore, I oppose the motion.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: May I ask one question? The Hon'ble Minister did not state in his speech as to why the Port Commissioners could not be requested to undertake the work?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Because the Eden Gardens are not under the Port Commissioners of Calcutta.

The motion was then put and lost.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move "that the sum of Rs. 2,52,000 which it is proposed to grant for the improvement of the Mainaguri-Dhupguri Road including the construction of the Lower Jaldhaka bridges and subdivision building, be refused."

This scheme involves an expenditure of more than Rs. 15,00,000 and by this time something like Rs. 7,50,000 has been spent upon it and we have yet to spend more than Rs. 7,00,000. Therefore, my proposal is that considering the present financial stringency, and also the fact that it is not a very urgent project, this demand of Rs. 2,52,000 should for the present be refused. I cannot understand why this scheme should be rushed through, and why we cannot wait till things improve. Of course I have no objection to the scheme itself, but what I say is that the scheme can be taken up hereafter when our financial position improves. What I propose is only the postponement of the execution of this scheme for one or two years.

With these few words, I move my motion.

Mr. T. C. CRAWFORD: In the absence of Mr. Travers, I oppose this motion. I understand that materials have already been collected for the project and the work should be undertaken in view of the heavy rainfall in that district. Furthermore, I should like to impress on this Council that this particular road does not actually serve only tea garden interests but serves as an outlet to many of the areas. This project has got the full support of the Indian gentlemen of the district and there is no doubt that it would generally benefit the raiyats and the cultivators.

For these reasons, I oppose the motion.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri recommends that the provision of Rs. 2,52,000 for the improvement of the Mainaguri-Dhupguri Road should be refused.

I do not know whether the member is really able to speak from a knowledge of the conditions prevailing in the Jalpaiguri Duars or if he has brought forward this motion merely from a desire for economy.

For the benefit of those members who have no local knowledge, I hope the Council will bear with me while I give a brief description of the position.

In 1919, Sir John Cumming, while in charge of the portfolio of Public Works, interested himself personally in the subject of the development of communications in the Western Duars and wrote an exhaustive note on the past history and future policy in regard to communications in the area. I shall be happy to supply a copy of this exhaustive note to any member who may be interested in the subject.

Briefly, Sir, the whole of the Western or Jalpaiguri Duars is crown property. A large area of the higher land along the north of the district consists of reserved forest of great value, while by the year 1919—119 tea estates extending over an area of over 260,000 acres had been opened out in this area. Of these, no less than 31 gardens with an acreage of 40,000 are owned and managed by Indians. The lower land in the south of the district is largely paddy and jute cultivation.

In considering the question of the development of communications, Sir John Cumming suggested that the construction of main arteries of communications in the Government Estate should be undertaken for a three-fold object, *viz.*, (*i*) for the convenience of district administration; (*ii*) for the development of the industrial and agricultural areas by creating communications between the various districts both industrial and agricultural and by linking up these areas with the railways; and (*iii*) for linking up the industrial areas with the food-producing areas. At the same time he suggested that an obligation rested on the District Board to construct roads which are of minor importance, the extent being necessarily limited by the finances of the Board.

This line of policy was accepted by Government and in pursuance of the same and in continuation or former decisions, the Public Works Department, as well as the District Board, have been engaged for a number of years in improving, metalling and bridging old existing roads and, more recently, in constructing some of those new lines of communications which it was decided should be financed from Government revenues. The Mainaguri-Dhupguri road fulfils the three-fold object which has been enunciated. The Government work has for some years been in charge of a separate Public Works Division.

I am advised by the officers of the Department that it would be uneconomical to suspend or postpone it in its present state of progress.

It would lead to claims from contractors arising out of suspension of contracts, while much of the work in the nature of earthen banks and materials collected for the construction of bridges would be lost or would deteriorate. The problem of labour in the district is a difficult one, nearly all is imported, and if this is dispersed at the present time, it will be difficult and expensive to bring it together again at some future date.

In the circumstances explained, I beg to oppose the motion

The motion was then put and lost.

The following amendments were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the sum of Rs 92,57,000 which it is proposed to grant under the head '41.—Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 7,29,000 being the amount required for communication (Transferred)."

Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 3,35,000 under head '41.—Civil Works (Reserved),' be reduced by Rs. 2,70,000."

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 89,02,000 under head '41A.—Civil Works (Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 40,00,000."

I beg to draw the attention of the House and that of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that he very kindly assured us that there will be no undertaking of new projects next year. We requested the department to observe economy and to cut down expenditure at the time of the budget discussion last year. But this timely advice was unheeded, otherwise we could have made a saving of Rs. 20,00,000 in not undertaking new projects. But before going into the details and discussing the matter finally, I like to draw the attention of the House to the irregularity of figures, like the irregularity which I had shown the other day, in the Department of Industries. Last year there was no "reserved head" but there was another head, "Civil Works under Civil Officers." We learn that under the orders of the Government of India, these two have been amalgamated. But I cannot understand why the mere act of amalgamation can raise the figures to such an enormous height. Last year, under the head "Civil Works under Civil Officers" a sum of Rs. 12,36,000 was provided for, of which only Rs. 16,000 was non-voted. If the "reserved head" of this year corresponds to the department of "Civil Works under Civil Officers" of last year, then why are the figures of the "reserved head" as high as Rs. 17,17,000? The non-voted item of the "reserved head" has been put as high as Rs. 13,62,000, out of Rs. 17,17,000. Thus not only the figures under the reserved head have risen from Rs. 12,36,000 to

Rs. 17,17,000, but the non-voted item has risen out of all proportions, from Rs. 16,000 to Rs. 13,62,000. The next charge that I have to bring against the department is its carelessness to give proper explanation to understand figures. Last year, the figures under " grants-in-aid " were properly explained as the figures were put against the names of the departments to which they were distributed. This year, a lump sum both under the " reserved " and under the " transferred " heads has been provided for, but the Hon'ble Minister did not think any explanation necessary, therefore, the note given in the previous year's Budget has not been supplied.

Though we have been assured that no new projects will be undertaken this year, we have been asked to grant Rs. 1,46,000 under " reserved " head and Rs. 28,38,000 under transferred head for original works which are in progress. Thus we are increasing our liabilities as, with the increase in the number of buildings, our recurring charges are also increasing. These items of expenditure belong to a transferred subject, and if we cut down this to make our national balance even, I beg to remind the House that we will not run the risk of a veto. Again this question of buildings is not the life and death question with us, these are rather luxuries, and we can wait for them if we only consider it necessary. I therefore beg to suggest to the House a plan which, if adopted, will solve the knotty question of financial stringency. The buildings we are erecting, or we will erect in future, are the assets which we will leave by way of legacy to our future generations and, therefore, I think it will not be injustice to make them contribute something to this fund When the surplus will accrue out of the new taxation, a successful loan project for public buildings can be formulated and all sums necessary for the erection of buildings can henceforth be safely met with from loan and not from the ordinary revenue account. Maintenance charges, repairing charges and 4 per cent. of the interest charges can be met from the revenue side of this department. Only a lump provision may be made from the ordinary revenue account, for the remaining interest charges and for the sinking fund, if necessary. But I think public buildings in towns, like private buildings, will get enhanced valuation with the advance of time. If this suggestion be followed, a large sum will be realised from the ordinary revenue account which can be utilized to fight out malaria in Bengal; there can be no fear that it will go into the " reserved " departments, as this sum belongs to a transferred head; we can safely advise the Government to spend this realised sum on another transferred head which is unproductive, but is a question of life and death to the nation.

Again, if a little prudence and a little economy be exercised, the department can be managed more efficiently and at the same time more economically. Last year, the Hon'ble Minister told us that the increase is partly due to the rise in prices in building materials. I think the

department can manufacture its own materials, for example, the department can have its own brickfields and other works. Next the time-hallowed custom of entrusting works to contractors might be abandoned. We find the department is well managed with its own engineers and officers who can be asked to plan, conduct and supervise the operations, only, of course, we shall have labour contractors to help them. This will lessen the expenditure and at the same time it can also be run on an efficiency basis.

Thus, Sir, I think, I have put my points very clearly and briefly before the House. As the loan project is not yet ready, let the department wait for its original works with some exceptions due to financial stringency. The department has failed to make any provision for so important a subject as "Miscellaneous Public Improvements." If we can afford it, why can we not wait for the original works till the loan policy is matured? Out of the sum of Rs. 28,38,000 for original works in progress, I understand that the sum of Rs. 4,48,000 for Revenue buildings is necessary; moreover, I think this year's grant is the last instalment under this head. The sum of Rs. 25,000 for minor works in Government House is also necessary. Rupees 12,000 for the re-wiring works in the Writers' Buildings, I understand, is indispensable. Similarly, the grant (Rs. 34,000) to the divisional commissioners is also necessary. These will total Rs. 5,19,000. Therefore all the works for the remaining sum of Rs. 23,19,000 under the original works in progress can be set aside for the present. Under the head "Repairing" large sums of money have been provided for both under the reserved and transferred heads. But as I do not like to encroach upon the figures of the reserved head, I like to make a reduction under the transferred head to the amount of Rs. 15,00,000 and Rs. 2,00,000 from "Establishment." Last year, something like the sum of Rs. 11,00,000 was provided under "grants-in-aid." This year, these grants-in-aid have not been explained, therefore, we could not exactly know the amount that could be reduced. But a reduction of Rs. 2,00,000, I think, will not affect much. Thus my totals amount to Rs. 42,19,000. I have, therefore, put it to Rs. 40,00,000. My advocacy for lump reduction is dictated by common sense, as we are not supplied with details, it is simply impossible for us to pronounce our judgment upon particulars. Moreover, this will also be of some advantage to the department itself as it will easily enable it to re-arrange its figures according to its own choice.

Thus, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the House and that of the Hon'ble Minister a glaring mistake, the magnitude of which is annually increasing under the garb of expediency, and I do not know when the national folly will come to an end. The lavish way in which we are spending money upon buildings and bungalows, upon erecting rest-houses for officers and quarters for highly-paid Government servants, is certainly unworthy of us, as this policy itself stands self-condemned. The more

I realise the impudence and carelessness of it, of the injustice done to the country, the more I become gloomy and despondent and hopeless for the future. I hope the House will agree with me to ponder over the proposal only to avert a national crisis.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: It was very difficult to follow what the mover said, so I am replying on assumptions. This motion provides for a lump sum out of Rs. 40,00,000 out of the demand for Rs. 89,02,000 under the transferred voted head of the Civil Works Budget.

It is suggested that by postponing the less urgent of the original works in progress, or by slowing down the rate of building, a certain amount of the proposed provision might be deferred to a subsequent year in view of the necessity for curtailing expenditure as far as possible during the year 1922-23. I think enough has been said by the various departments of Government in dealing with the motions already discussed, to show that only those works in progress, which are most urgently required to be completed, have been provided and that none of the departments are in favour of postponing these works.

With regard to the proposal that the construction should be carried out more tardily, this is the first occasion on which I have heard it stated that the Public Works Department works too quickly! I acknowledge the mover's allegation with some gratitude, but I think it would be false economy to ask the officers of the department or the contractors to "go slow." Our efforts are generally in the direction of getting contractors to hurry and I do not think the various departments for whom we are doing these works, would welcome an order from me that these efforts should be relaxed. Therefore, Sir, I do not think it would be wise to curtail the provision we propose under this head, and I must, therefore, oppose this part of the motion.

Next, in regard to curtailing the provision for repairs, I should say that the "reserved" side of Government is the owner of a number of buildings which are as essential for the carrying on of the work of the departments under the administration of that side of Government as are those on the "transferred" side.

The only alternative to maintaining and repairing Government property is to let it deteriorate, but the Council will realize that a very few years of so unwise and short-sighted a policy would result in the loss of many buildings and the eventual expenditure of a very much larger sum to restore or rebuild them.

Buildings deteriorate very rapidly in the Indian climate, particularly those of a semi-permanent nature of which, unfortunately, Government owns a large number.

The most truly economical method is, therefore, to keep all property in as good a state of repair as possible year by year.

I need not add more, and I therefore oppose the proposal now made of a reduction under repairs.

Then the mover proposes to reduce the provision for establishment which stands at Rs. 12,71,590. I have already opposed his proposal to reduce original works and repairs, and it follows that I cannot agree to reduce establishment which is necessary to carry on the works of the department. If the Rai Bahadur was more familiar with the details of the establishment he would realise that permanent pensionable officers and subordinates cannot suddenly be got rid of without compensating them in some measure. Moreover, it would be difficult, if this regular establishment were reduced to any large extent in one year, to get it together quickly in a subsequent year when expenditure on works might again become normal. Besides, it must be remembered that, if Government is able to obtain sufficient funds from loans, the Public Works Department will probably be called on to carry out a good deal of work with those loan funds. But how would they be able to answer that call with a depleted establishment? I cannot, therefore, accept this part of the motion.

The last proposal is a reduction in the provision of Rs. 11,31,000 for "grants-in-aid." In the speech, when moving the Council for the grant for 41.—Civil Works, I referred the Council to the note on page 60 of the Financial Statement, which explains that the provision is normal compared with former years, and that this year it is intended to meet the expenditure which, in former years, was shown under the head "41.—Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers." The sum provided is that which the Finance Member has advised me should be entered in the Budget and I cannot, therefore, agree to the proposed reduction under this head.

For the above reasons, Sir, I oppose the motion of Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur that the provision should be reduced by Rs. 40,00,000.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: After hearing the Hon'ble Minister, I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following amendment was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 89,02,000 under head '41.—Civil Works (Transferred)" be reduced by Rs. 10,00,000."

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 92,57,000 for expenditure under the head "41.—Civil Works" was then put and agreed to.

45.—Superannuation allowances and pensions.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I move "that a sum of Rs. 45,81,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '45.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.'"

This demand is based on detailed calculations made in the office of the Accountant-General and needs no further justification.

The motion was put and agreed to.

46.—Stationery and Printing.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I move "that a sum of Rs. 23,23,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '46.—Stationery and Printing.'"

This is an item which is, unfortunately, going up from year to year, the main cause being the high cost of paper and the activities of this Council. The cost of paper may fall in time, but I see no signs that the activities of this Council are likely to grow less. There is one consolation that the demand we are making for next year is somewhat less than the revised estimate of the current year. The reason of that is, as I explained the other day, that we have laid in a considerable stock of paper and we have paid for the accumulated stock and we hope that the price of paper next year will not be quite so high as it has been during the current year.

The following amendment, standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for stationery supplied from the Central Stores, be reduced by Rs 1,00,000."

Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: I move "that the demand for Rs. 35,280 under head '46B.—Bengal Secretariat Press—Salaries' be reduced by omitting therefrom the salaries of two Deputy Superintendents, *i.e.*, Rs. 13,200."

He spoke in vernacular in support of his motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: This is a very simple matter. We have three Deputy Superintendents of the press at the present moment and the member wants us to dismiss two of them. One of these officers is employed in the branch press at Sealdah where there are 300 hands; the other two are engaged in Writers' Buildings where there are 650 hands. The member refers to those happy days when there was one Superintendent and no Deputy Superintendent. I suppose that was before we had much machinery in the Bengal press, and before there was so much work. Since 1889, the machinery and the work have increased by leaps and bounds. The staff has necessarily increased with the work, and but for the expedient of labour-saving machinery, we should have wanted at least three times as many people as we have now and deputy superintendents would have had to be increased in the same proportion. As it is, one deputy superintendent for 300 men with

all the machinery to look after and keep in order is not an excessive staff and we are not prepared to reduce it.

The motion was put and lost.

Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: I beg to withdraw the following amendment standing in my name:—

"That the demand for Rs. 3,284 under head '46B.—Bengal Secretariat Press—Allowances' be refused."

The amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: I move "that the demand for Rs. 35,000 under head '46B' for the Darjeeling Branch Press be refused."

He spoke in vernacular in support of his motion.

The following amendment, standing in the names of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, was, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 35,000 under head '46B' for the Darjeeling Branch Press be refused."

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: There appears to be some misapprehension in the member's mind about the Private Secretary's Press. The Private Secretary's Press does not go to Darjeeling; it remains in Calcutta all the year round. Printing work required for His Excellency the Governor in Darjeeling is done at the Darjeeling Press. Apart from this, the Darjeeling Press does the printing work for the Secretariat and Heads of Departments when they go to Darjeeling. The Council has accepted the principle that a certain number of officers must go to Darjeeling when His Excellency is there, and it follows that there must be some printing work while they are up there. In order to give the Darjeeling Press work when Government is not in Darjeeling, it undertakes the printing work for the Darjeeling municipality. I need hardly say that the municipality pays for this and to that extent the press is a source of profit to Government. In addition to that it relieves the Calcutta press and undertakes heavy work which is non-urgent, following the system adopted by the Government of India. They carry out their urgent printing work in Simla and Delhi and send their non-urgent work to the press in Calcutta. Similarly, we keep our press at Darjeeling going and we employ it during the months of the year when Government is not there by sending up our non-urgent work. I think I have shown that the Darjeeling press performs a useful function and not only a useful function, but also a necessary function. I am therefore unable to accept the motion.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Hem Chandra Bhattacharji was then put and lost.

Babu HEM CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI: I beg to withdraw the following amendment standing in my name:—

"That the demand for Rs. 2,000 for printing at private presses be refused."

The amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I move "that the demand for Rs. 23,23,000 be reduced by Rs. 10,00,000."

A sum of Rs. 23,23,000 for stationery and printing is large enough to stagger a man, and we find that this year there has been an increase of about 10 lakhs. Now, Sir, I know from my own experience that the cost of paper has come down by half. The Hon'ble Mr. Kerr in reply to my budget speech was pleased to say that he admitted the justice of my observations and that he would try to reduce expenditure this year. I believe that, if he does so try, he can reduce expenditure by at least Rs. 8,00,000 or Rs. 10,00,000 and it is for the purpose of bringing this fact to his notice that I move this resolution and I hope that the best that can be done should be done.

There is a great deal of extravagance in printing and paper about Government business. Take, for example, the work of this Council; I get so much paper and printing from this Council that I am bothered by it. I think that so much paper and printing is not necessary at all. They make a heap on my table. In every Government department the same thing happens. Red-tapism, and the repetition of the same thing is going on three times over. In a poor country like Bengal, the amount of Rs. 23,23,000 for printing and paper seems to be too much. I am told—I do not know if I am right or not—that the printing expenses for His Excellency, the Governor are greater than his sumptuary allowances.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I think the Rai Bahadur was mistaken when he said that our printing charge had gone up by Rs. 10,00,000. The actual estimate this year is about Rs. 4,00,000 less than the revised estimate for the current year. I explained the reason for that when I introduced the motion for this demand. If the Rai Bahadur could show to the House how we are going to save, Rs. 10,00,000 out of that estimate, nobody would be more pleased than I would be, but I submit that his speech did not contain any constructive suggestions of any value. First of all, he has complained of the unnecessary amount of matter printed for this Council. That is a thing we have gone into very carefully and we have cut down the expenditure on paper very considerably. For instance, we have arranged this new form of question paper. Formerly we used to print each question on a separate sheet and we used to supply a copy of each of these questions to each member of the Council. Some days before the meeting, we used to print the answers to each question on a separate piece of paper and on the

day of the meeting we supplied these answers to members and very often a copy was laid on each member's table, while another was sent to his private residence. That was all very well in the old days when meetings were few and when we had not to satisfy such an inexhaustible thirst for information on the part of the members of this Council. We have now cut all this down a great deal. We have introduced this form of question paper—the Hansard form—and we supply only one copy to each member. He is asked to bring that copy with him to the Council and if he fails to bring it with him that is his fault. In that way, we have effected a considerable saving in printing charges connected with the Legislative Council. If the Rai Bahadur is willing to do without any of the other papers relating to Council meetings, and if he will let me know, I shall be very pleased to give direction that those papers need no longer be sent to him.

As to the printing charges for Government generally, we have had this matter under consideration and so have the Government of India. Mr. Ascoli, who has been placed on special duty to consider the possibility of decreasing the printing and stationery charges, was here the other day. He told us that we were the most economical Government in India as far as that matter goes. He has suggested various measures of economy which we are trying to carry out. We have recently introduced this sort of thing—this abominable flap for envelopes—in order to save paper charges. These envelopes would, in the ordinary course, be torn up directly they had been used once. Now when the address on the flap is torn off, another flap is stuck on, and the envelope is supposed to go on for ever. I do not much care for this arrangement, but it certainly conduces to economy. I have here a mass of figures justifying the details of the Budget demand, but I do not think I need trouble the Council with them. I do claim that our expenditure on stationery and printing, though regrettably large, is not in any way extravagant, and I am prepared to justify all the items in the Budget. I regret, therefore, I cannot accept the motion of the Rai Bahadur.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: May I just draw the attention of the Hon'ble Member to line 3, page 53 of the Budget? It is stated that the large increase in the revised estimate as compared with the sanctioned estimate for this year mainly occurs under the head "Stationery supplied from Central Stores and Government Presses." The increase in the former case is partly due to the marked rise in the price of paper and partly to the purchase of paper this year which should have been purchased and paid for last year, but had to be postponed for want of funds. But I may say that at the present time there is a marked fall in the price of paper.

Mr. F. A. LARMOUR: May I rise for a personal explanation? I mentioned to the Rai Bahadur that I had been informed that His Excellency's printing bill for invitation or things of that sort

from time to time exceeded his travelling allowance. I did not say that the whole of His Excellency's work was done by the Government Press. Messrs. Thacker, Spink and others do a great deal of the printing in this line.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: With reference to the point raised by the Rai Bahadur, I should like to point out that the increase in the revised estimate applies to the charges we have to pay during the current year. If there has been a fall in the price of paper, I am very glad to hear of it, but the fall will affect future estimates and not the revised estimate for the current year.

The motion was then put and lost.

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 23,23,000 for expenditure under the head " 46.—Stationery and Printing " was then put and agreed to.

47.—Miscellaneous.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I move " that a sum of Rs. 3,70,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '47. Miscellaneous'."

This head covers a number of small charges which cannot be put down under any particular head. The details are all given at page 168 of the Civil Estimates and I do not think they require any explanation from me.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I beg to withdraw the amendment standing in my name.

The following amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

" That the demand for Rs. 13,000 under the heading ' Rewards for proficiency in oriental language and allowance to language Examination Committee,' be refused."

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 3,70,000 for expenditure under the head " 47.—Miscellaneous " was then put and agreed to.

52.—Miscellaneous Adjustments.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (Mr. C. P. Walsh): On behalf of the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, I move " that a sum of Rs. 9,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '52.—Miscellaneous adjustments.' "

The motion was put and agreed to.

55.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (not charged to Revenue).

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I move " that a sum

of Rs. 13,26,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '55.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works (not charged to Revenue).' "

I must first of all explain that in the printed notice the amount is Rs. 12,11,000, and the difference I shall now explain. This provision consists of the Grand Trunk Canal Project and the provision of a sum—the difference in the exchange of Rs. 10 and Rs. 15 to the pound on the cost of dredgers. I will explain the latter part first.

Three dredgers with their spare parts have been purchased, and are being paid for in England and the amount which it was originally proposed to provide for in the Budget was £2,34,700; this sum converted into rupees on ten rupees a pound, amounts to Rs 23,47,000 and is adjusted as explained at pages 69 and 70 of the Budget statement along with that which appears in Appendix C, page 80. As the exchange is at present Rs. 15 per pound, and not Rs. 10, there remains a balance of Rs. 5 in the pound to pay for, and this is provided under head " 55 ". For £234,700 this loss on exchange amounts to Rs. 11,39,500 or if you add together items 14 and 21 you will see that the amounts comes to Rs. 11,36,000. The High Commissioner was unable to pay the full estimated amount for the current year and £23,000, which is the amount of loss on exchange, has not been budgeted under this head. He accordingly has cabled out that this £23,000 be added to the present budget. This, in Indian money, comes to Rs. 1,15,000, and added to the exchange increases the total amount of the figure which I am now asking the Council to vote.

The other item in this motion is for the Grand Trunk Canal project regarding which I need not say very much, because we have not provided any money for the project itself, but in view of the promise given to this Council last year, it was decided that as there were two distinct opinions on the question of the importance or utility of this project, it was the duty of the Government to work out the estimates and plans, and submit them to the Council for consideration. It is for working out these estimates and plans that this sum of Rs. 64,000 has been provided in the Budget. I may say that from the information that I have been able to gather from Mr. Addams-Williams, it is hoped that by the middle of the year, he will be able to give us materials enough to go into the question throughly. I see there are certain motions for reduction regarding this item, and regarding them, what I should like to point out at this stage is simply this: we have provided, as I said, Rs. 64,000 which is the salary of the officers now engaged on working out these details, and contingent charges. Now, if we were to accede to the request of some of the members of this Council, and not provide for this amount, or if the Council voted against this provision, even then nearly Rs. 30,000 would have to be paid in any case for the establishment or as compensation. I hope, therefore, the Council will realise that it is better to have an

estimate worked out, and a scheme put before the Council this year, either to be accepted or rejected by them. For these reasons, I ask for this grant.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I move "that the sum of Rs. 13,26,000, which it is proposed to grant under this head, be reduced by Rs. 64,000 being the estimated provision for the preparation of a revised plan and estimate of the Grand Trunk Canal project."

As regards the Grand Trunk Canal project, "last year we thought that it would cost about six crores of rupees, and I have since been informed that the figure, which was already too high, had gone up much higher, and that there was no possibility or chance of the project being carried out, and it was generally understood that the project was dead. The question now is to bury it respectably, and for this respectable burial, a sum of Rs. 64,000 is required. I can quite understand that an estimate should be made, for, in that case, Government would be convinced that the scheme was too costly and, therefore, not feasible. But we see that the cost of the burial seems to be very heavy; so much procession, so much drum beating is not necessary at all. I would just like to ask the Hon'ble Member to consider whether the estimate of cost necessary for the Grand Trunk Canal project cannot be decreased.

The following amendment, standing in the name of Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, was in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 64,000 for a revised plan and estimate of the Grand Trunk Canal project, be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I beg to withdraw the motion standing in my name.

The following amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 64,000 for the preparation of a revised plan and estimate of the Grand Trunk Canal project, be reduced by Rs. 9,000."

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I oppose the Rai Bahadur's motion for the following reasons:—

There is no question of burial or cremation at the present moment. The question before the House is as to whether we should complete our estimates and submit them to the Council for consideration. I said so in my opening remarks. All that I can say now to the Rai Bahadur is that if the Government thought, even at this stage, that the project was not likely to be in any sense a productive work, Government itself would not have provided for this amount in the Budget. Government

is of opinion that the expert advisers of this project will be in a position to satisfy the Council as to its being regarded as a productive work. In view of the fact that no less than nine important bodies like the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce, the Calcutta Port Commissioners, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Marwari Association, the Bengal Mahajan Sabha, the Narayangunge Chamber of Commerce, the Calcutta Trades Association, the Steamer Companies, and the Eastern Bengal Railway have all voted, for, or rather have all commented favourably on, this project, Government thinks that it is its duty to place the exact position before the public through the medium of this Council when the occasion arises, so that members of the Council, as well as those who are in favour of the scheme, may be in a position to rightly judge the state of affairs in this respect. For this reason, I am unable to accept the recommendation of the Rai Bahadur to refuse this grant.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to withdraw my amendment. My only desire in putting it forward was to point out that this sum of Rs. 64,000 is too much, and I hope the member will see his way to reduce it.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

***Kumar SHIB SHEKARESWAR RAY:** On behalf of Babu Tankanath Chaudhuri, I move this motion in the following amended form:—

"That the sum of Rs. 13,26,000, which it is proposed to grant under the head '55.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works' be reduced by Re. 1.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Yes, you may.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. E. Spry): May I ask if permission has been given to the Kumar Sahib to move this amendment which is not in his name? I understand he is moving an entirely new amendment to reduce the demand by Re. 1. Is it usual for a member of the House to move an entirely new amendment when no amendment in his name stands on the agenda?

The DEPUTY-PRSEIDENT: I have permitted him to move this amendment in an amended form.

Mr. H. E. SPRY: I wish to say that so far we have had no notice of this amendment.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move this amendment so that I might have opportunity to speak on the original motion of the Hon'ble Member in charge, asking for a grant of Rs. 13,26,000 for construction of Navigation works. This head "55" is a new head consisting, after adjustments and transfers, of such items of capital expenditure which are financed from loans. Capital expenditure financed from

provincial revenues is also debited, in the first instance, to this head, but as I have said already, this latter item is then transferred to another head (head " 16 "). Thus separate demands for grants are made for items of capital expenditure financed from loans and ordinary revenue This head " 55 " ultimately deals with capital expenditure financed from loans. Cost of English stores included in the estimate of capital expenditure on works financed from loans and ordinary revenues, is also originally shown under this head, but subsequently transferred to the High Commissioner's Budget. This is a brief description of how the accounts are kept in this head. I shall now proceed to explain the various subdivisions into which this major head is divided. There are two main subdivisions, *viz.*, " 55A." which deals with expenditure on Irrigation Works, and " 55B." which deals with that on Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works. There is no expenditure under " 55A." this year; " 55B." is further subdivided into two heads, productive and unproductive. From the nature of demands this year, it appears that the sub-head " 55B(*a*) " deals with capital expenditure on the proposed Grand Trunk Canal, and this expenditure appears to be wholly financed from loans. With regard to sub-head " 55B(*b*) " it appears that this deals with capital expenditure on the Madaripur Bil Route; this expenditure again appears to be financed partly from loan and partly from Provincial Revenue. The sub-head " 55B(*a*) " is labelled as " productive " and the sub-head " 55B(*a*) " is labelled as " unproductive." I have not been able to make out why they are so labelled. From the definition given in the Public Works Code, it appears that this labelling of projects as productive or unproductive is somewhat arbitrary; productive schemes being those which, after a period of ten years of their completion, are likely to pay a return of 5 per cent. on the total outlay. Thus the labelling of the outlay on Madaripur Bil Route as " unproductive " brings home to our mind the unfortunate thought that from the outset the Government think that the Madaripur Bil Route will not even afford a return of 5 per cent. on the outlay, and still we are asked to vote lakhs and lakhs of rupees on this project, year after year.

Now, I come to the expenditure budgeted under these two sub-heads. I shall take up the expenses under these two heads together to discuss the various items of expenditure which appear to me to be somewhat puzzling. Total expenditure under these two heads, as shown in the Budget and without taking into account the deductions for the present, is Rs. 59,89,000. Of this amount, Rs. 35,21,000 is the cost of English Stores and Rs. 11,74,000 is the amount payable on account of loss by the rate of exchange. Now, when I refer to the High Commissioner's Budget under this head in page 80 of the Grey Book, I find that the provision made there is only for Rs. 25,77,000, whereas the amount shown here is Rs. 35,21,000. I confess that I have not been able to make out the reason of this discrepancy. It is evidently a mistake

either in the Irrigation Department or of the Finance Department, and should not find a place in the Budget estimate of Bengal. I presume that the correct figure is Rs. 25,77,000. I might point out here that besides this we have provided for loss by exchange separately under this head, on this account. This item is Rs. 11,74,000 as has been shown in the Budget. This figure, too, was misleading and I wanted to point out the mistake, but I see the Hon'ble Member himself has corrected it to-day in presenting the Budget demand. Then I find that the amount to be financed from loan is actually Rs. 12,56,000 *plus* Rs. 27,77,000, that is Rs. 40,33,000 only, but we have budgeted for a loan of Rs. 50,00,000 from the Government of India. May I inquire what the Hon'ble Member proposes to do with the balance of Rs. 9,67,000. The receipt side of the Provincial budget includes this Rs. 50,00,000 from the Government of India, but on the expenditure side only Rs. 40,33,000 has been accounted for. Does this mean that the balance of Rs. 9,67,000 has been appropriated for expenses which ought to have been financed from the ordinary revenues of the Province? Or does Hon'ble Finance Member want to swell his closing balance by loans?

Another interesting item is the deduction of a sum of Rs. 3,96,000 on account of recoveries on capital account. This, I understand, is the charges realised for hiring out the dredgers in connection with the dredging of other canals and waterways for a period of six months for which sanction has been obtained under heads "15" and "16." This, therefore, is a sort of book transfer of accounts. I would not have referred to it, but for the fact that I consider it to be rather over-estimated, the result of which would be less receipts on this account, and so ultimately a greater demand under head "55." The existing dredger *Alexandra* has never earned more than Rs. 575 for a day's work. I do not know whether the new dredgers are more powerful than the *Alexandra*. Then I understand that the dredger *Burdwan* is coming out in pieces, for re-assembling of which a sum of Rs. 3,00,000 has been included in the demand. I do not know whether this arrangement too was a part of the contract. I am also doubtful whether this work of re-assembling the parts would be completed during the year. If not, it would not be possible to hire it out as proposed. This, too, would affect the receipts on this account.

Last year, during the Budget debate, we were told that all the three dredgers were ordered in connection with the Grand Trunk Canal, and included in the estimate of Rs. 3,09,00,000 for the Grand Trunk Canal project. But, from the Budget figures of the ensuing year, it appears that a considerable part of the outlay on this account has been transferred to the unproductive head "55B(*b*)" which deals with the Madaripur Bil Route. I am really curious to know the reason of this diversion of the capital expenditure. No sanction for this change was taken from the Council. Am I to understand that in these matters

the Hon'ble Member is quite independent of this Council? I understand that the estimate on the Grand Trunk Canal is being revised and reconsidered; I therefore refrain from discussing it for the present.

At this stage the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournment.

Mr. H. E. SPRY: With the permission of the Hon'ble Member in charge of Irrigation, I rise to answer the motion for reduction which has been moved by Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray. I understand his amendment is that the demand for Rs. 13,26,000 under this head should be reduced by Re. 1, and the reason for my replying to this motion is that the matter involves not so much irrigation as a question of accounts. Before I come to deal with the details of the figures that are shown in the Financial Statement, I may be allowed to refer to the remarks that have been made in regard to the Madaripur Bil Route which Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray says is shown in the "unproductive" class under heading "55B." The Kumar is under a misapprehension in this matter; the expenditure on the Madaripur Bil Route does not come under head "55B," except in so far as it includes the cost of one of the dredgers which is to be employed for a period of six months on the Madaripur Bil Route or adjoining it. To that extent, and so far as I am aware, to that extent only, does the Madaripur Bil Route come under this demand.

As regards the manner in which these dredgers are to be brought out to India, the Kumar Sahib has the curious idea that a dredger is a small thing that can be put in one's waistcoat pocket, or at any rate can be put on boardship in a packing case, because he complains of the intention to assemble one of the dredgers when it has been brought to this country. I think if the Kumar Sahib proceeds with his study of irrigation matters he might take an early opportunity of seeing a dredger and gaining some idea of the size of such a vessel, and when he sees one, I think he will understand that it is not an unreasonable proposition that a dredger should be brought to this country in parts and assembled here after it has been received. So far as we are advised, that is what will happen with regard to this particular dredger, the *Burdwan*, and we are told that there is every likelihood that the process of assembling will be completed so as to enable the dredger to work for six months in the coming year.

Then the Kumar made certain remarks about the proposed loan of Rs. 50,00,000 from the Government of India, and I think, if I may say so, he was a little injudicious in what he said, because he accused the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr of swelling the balances by entering a loan for which there was not full need. I think, if I remember the figures, he said that that Rs. 10,00,000 of these Rs. 50,00,000 would not be required, and that presumably it was left in, in order to swell the

surplus. I think the House will agree with me that the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr is not capable of such dishonest budgeting. The position with regard to this loan of Rs. 50,00,000 is this: when the Budget was in course of preparation, it was known that capital charges on account of the construction of dredgers would have to be met in the year 1922-23, and at a rough computation, Rs. 50,00,000 seemed to be sufficient to meet our liabilities on this account. These dredgers are being built in England; the cost of materials and labour varies, the estimates are liable to revision, and in dealing with very expensive articles of this description, it is well to allow a fairly good margin. It is impossible for the High Commissioner, and it is impossible for us, to say exactly how much money will be required on this account in 1922-23, but so far as we can estimate it is thought that a sum of Rs. 50,00,000 wil be ample, and, therefore, we are asking the Government of India for a loan of Rs. 50,00,000 on this account. If it is found subsequently that the dredgers cost only Rs. 40,00,000 or Rs. 45,00,000, we shall certainly take a loan of this amount only, and not of the full Rs. 50,00,000 There is no question of the Finance Department putting Rs. 5,00,000 or Rs. 10,00,000 in their pockets as suggested by the mover.

Then I come to the somewhat confusing statement on page 68 of the Financial Statement, and I wish to say at once that we ourselves have experienced difficulty in understanding what it all means. This form of accounts has not been created or devised in the Finance Department as a trap for the unwary, but it is a form which has been forced on us by the Auditor-General. I do not hold a brief for the adoption of this form of accounts. Speaking for myself, I do not appreciate it, but I do think it is understandable, and I may very briefly say a few words as to the way in which the demand under this head is worked out. In saying this, I wish to make it clear that I know nothing of Irrigation as such; I am dealing with it purely as a matter of accounts.

Under "55B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works," —I am referring to page 68 of what is known as the Grey Book—there are two classes of expenditure, namely, productive and unproductive. Under works, items 8 and 15, are shown the total charges of the department under these two heads. Items 9 and 16, show the establishment charges, 10 and 17 tools and plant, and 11 and 18 the suspense accounts Then against that expenditure are set off the recoveries and receipts on capital account; and items Nos. 13 and 20 show the deductions on account of the cost of English stores. The reason of that is simply this: under the head works, items 8 and 15, is included the cost of the dredgers; but these dredgers are going to be paid for in England and are shown in the High Commissioner's Budget. If the cost of the dredgers is not deducted here, it would be included twice in the demand, once here and again in the High Commissioner's Budget. As the cost has to be shown in the High Commissioner's Budget, it must of necessity be

deducted here in order to arrive at the amount required under this heading "55."

We therefore deduct 11·10 under the productive head and 24·11 under the unproductive head, or 35·21 in all; and that is the cost of the dredgers at the rate of 1*s.* 4*d.* to the rupee or Rs. 15 to the pound. In the High Commissioner's Budget, under the orders of the Government of India, we have to show this expenditure at two shillings to the rupee, and it is quite clear, therefore, that we have to debit the Irrigation Department with the loss in exchange. As this House is aware, in all other departmental budgets, the loss in exchange is shown under a separate head '40.—Exchange on Transactions with London." But in the case of the dredgers we are financing from loan. I think it will be obvious to the House that the loss in exchange is a legitimate charge on the capital account, and therefore, it has to be debited to this head of accounts; that is to say, it becomes a part of the demand which the Hon'ble Member has to make before this Council on account of the charges under this head. That, very briefly, is the position. I regret very much that owing to an oversight, the full charge on account of the loss in exchange has not been shown in the Financial Statement. The final figures were communicated to us by the High Commissioner after the Budget was in print; and it has been necessary for the Hon'ble Member to ask for an extra sum of Rs. 1,15,000; because after the Financial Statement was in print, the High Commissioner telegraphed to us that he had to carry forward to next year the sum of £23,000 sterling on account of the cost of the dredgers. Although the High Commissioner's Budget was corrected, unfortunately we omitted to put in the additional loss in exchange under this head "55." That is the position so far as the accounts are concerned, and I think that although they are complicated, it is not very difficult to understand them.

As regards the merits of this amendment, which seeks to reduce the grant by Re. 1, I submit that the Kumar Sahib, with the best intentions in the world I am sure, has made some inaccurate and unsuitable statements—inaccurate as regards the figures he has quoted, and unsuitable as regards the proposed loan of Rs. 50,00,000, and that he has shown no good reason why this demand should be reduced even by a rupee. Therefore, in the absence of any satisfactory reason for the reduction of the demand, I oppose it on behalf of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department.

The motion was then put and lost.

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 13,26,000 for expenditure under the head "55.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment, and Drainage Works (not charged to Revenue)" was then put and agreed to.

Home Charges.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I move " that a sum of Rs. 35,75,000 be granted for ' Home Charges ' to be incurred by the High Commissioner and the Secretary of State, as an estimate of stores from England and an estimate of leave and other allowances payable in England."

These charges are incurred on account of stores from England and on account of leave and other allowances that we have to pay in England. Our difficulty is that we cannot say exactly how much we shall have to pay in the course of the next year. The High Commissioner's requirements are intimated to us from time to time and we have to meet them by moving supplementary grants before this Council, when necessary. All we can say about this demand now is that it is the best estimate that we can make at the present moment of the sum that we shall have to pay next year. The details are given on pages 80 and 81 of the Financial Statement; the largest item out of this Rs. 35,00,000, is the sum of Rs. 25,77,000 on account of dredgers, on which Mr. Spry has just been speaking. The others are comparatively small items on account of leave allowances, pension allowances, payments for stamps in England, and so forth. I need not take the Council into further detail.

The following amendment was, by leave of the Council withdrawn:—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: " That the demand for Rs. 25,77,000 for ' Outlay on Waterways—Dredgers ' included in the High Commissioner's Budget, be reduced by Rs. 7,000."

The original demand for a sum of Rs. 35,75,000 for " Home Charges " to be incurred by the High Commissioner and the Secretary of State, as an estimate of stores from England and an estimate of leave and other allowances payable in England, was then put and agreed to.

Loans and advances by the Bengal Government.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): I move " that a sum of Rs. 11,77,000 be granted for loans and advances."

The motion was put and agreed to.

" Ad Interim " Allowances.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I move " that a sum of Rs. 4,84,000 be transferred from the ' non-voted ' provision for the revision of pay of the ministerial establishment under the several major heads to ' voted ' in order to meet the cost of *ad interim* allowances to ministerial establishment in respect of reserved departments pending sanction of the general revision."

The Council will have noticed that under the various departments we have entered as "non-voted," the demands which will be necessary to meet the cost of the revision of pay of the ministerial officers. The reason why these demands are shown at the present stage as "non-voted" is simply that we cannot, under the rules, place them before the Council until the sanction of the Secretary of State has been received. We hope that we shall receive sanction in due course, and that we shall be able to put these demands forward for the approval of the Council at the next session. Meanwhile, until the increases of pay are sanctioned by the Secretary of State and by this Council, it is necessary for us to continue the existing *ad interim* allowances. That is the reason why I ask for this grant now.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The next business that will be taken up is non-official business, namely, resolutions on matters of general public interest which have not yet been disposed of. The Council stands adjourned till 3 P.M. on Thursday, the 30th March, 1922.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 30th March, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 81 nominated and elected members.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): I should like to inform the members of the Council that His Excellency the Governor will come to the Council to-morrow at 5-45 P.M. with a view to prorogue the Council.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table.)

Facilities to Muhammadan prisoners to observe their religious rites.

284. Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken according to the Jail Committee report to afford facilities to the Muhammadan prisoners—

(*i*) for performing their daily and Friday prayers;

(*ii*) for supplying water for ablution and prayer mats in cells or wards to say their prayers at night and early in the morning; and

(*iii*) for allowing reasonable time for the performance of their rites?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) Facilities for prayer are already given to Muhammadan prisoners, but reports show that the practice in different jails varies. There is at present no definite rule, but after consultation with the Standing Committee of the Jails Department, the Inspector-General of Prisons has been asked to submit proposals and rules for giving effect to the recommendations of the Indian Jails Committee. His proposals are awaited before framing rules, but meanwhile general instructions are being issued.

Industries Department.

285. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a brief report of the working of the Industries Department indicating definitely—

(*i*) the usefulness of the Department in the present line of work; and

(*ii*) what positive service has been rendered by the Department to the interests of indigenous industry in the country?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing in detail—

(*i*) the number of officers employed in the Department with their respective salaries and work; and

(*ii*) the total cost of the Department?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state where is the office of the Department and what is the annual rent and cost of the upkeep of the office?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) where is the research tannery located;

(*ii*) what is its present staff; and

(*iii*) how long has it been working?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*), (*i*) and (*ii*) The member is referred to the administration report of the Department of Industries for the year 1920, a copy of which is laid on the Library table. The report for the year 1921 is not yet out.

(*b*) (*i*) and (*iii*) Two statements are laid on the table.

(*c*) The office of the Department of Industries is situated at 40A, Free School Street, Calcutta. The annual rent is Rs. 32,004 (*i.e.*, Rs. 2,667 per mensem), and the actual cost of the upkeep of the office is Rs. 2,904.

(*d*) (*i*) The Calcutta research tannery is located on the Canal South Road on the Beliaghatta Canal.

(*ii*) The present staff of the tannery consists of:—

One superintendent (part-time).

One research chemist.

One tannery foreman.

One assistant chemist.

Four clerks and five menials.

(*iii*) The tannery has been working since May, 1919.

Statement of the number of officers employed in the Department of Industries, with their respective salaries and work, referred to in the reply to clause (b) (i) of unstarred question No. 285.

The following officers (gazetted) are at present employed in the Department of Industries so far as transferred subjects are concerned :—

(1) Director of Industries—Pay Rs. 2,000-50-2,250 per mensem.

(2) Deputy Director of Industries—Pay Rs. 1,800 per mensem.

(3) Inspector of Technical and Industrial Institutions—Pay Rs 1,750 per mensem including all allowances. (This pay is personal to the present incumbent who is an I. E. S. Officer.)

(4) Industrial Chemist—Pay Rs. 1,000 per mensem

(5) Five Superintendents of Industries—Pay Rs 200-20-700 per mensem

The duties of these officers are enumerated below :—

(1) Director of Industries.—The Director of Industries is the administrative and executive head of the provincial Department of Industries, the work of which consists of—.

(A) Direct encouragement of industries—

1. Industrial research work.
2. Technical advice and assistance to industrialists.
3. Examination of applications for special concessions.
4. Grant of loans to small and cottage industries

(B) Collection and distribution of commercial and industrial intelligence—

5. Finding out markets for local products
6. Conduct of special inquiries and industrial surveys
7. Holding of industrial exhibitions and demonstrations.

(C) General—

8. Exchange of information with other provinces in respect of technical and industrial education.
9. Periodical publications.
10. Occasional conferences
11. Inter-provincial visits.

(D) Control of technical and industrial education—

12. Training of staff for industrial schools.
13. Inspection of industrial schools.
14. Organisation and inspection of apprentice classes attached to large works and provision for theoretical training

The Director of Industries is the Chairman of the Advisory Board of Industries.

(2) Deputy Director of Industries.—He is an adviser and assistant to the Director on industrial subjects and administrative points in connection with the development of industries.

He is also Secretary to the Advisory Board.

(3) Inspector of Technical and Industrial Institutions.—His work chiefly consists of the control of technical and industrial education. This is sub-divided under the following heads—

1. Training of staff for industrial schools.
2. Inspection of technical and industrial schools both Government and private

3. Organisation and inspection of apprentice classes attached to larger works and provision of theoretical teaching.

4. Organisation of higher instruction in technical education.

(4) Industrial Chemist.—His work consists of giving technical advice and assistance to industrialists in the manufacture, purification and sale of chemicals, *e.g.*, soaps, oil, fats, dyes, etc. He deals with industrial intelligence cases.

(5) Superintendents of Industries.—The province has been divided into five divisions corresponding almost to the civil divisions. Each division is in charge of a superintendent. The superintendent carries on the current duties of the department within his territorial charge, *i.e.*, he supervises the local activities of the department. He is the representative on the spot and the channel of communication between the people and the department. He receives requests for assistance, makes local inquiries, prepares schemes and supervises minor works within his area.

Statement showing the annual expenditure of the Department of Industries, Bengal, referred to in the reply to clause (b) (ii) of unstarred question No. 285.

Year.	Salaries.	Establishment.	Allowances.	Contingencies.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1918-1919	46,812 0 0	13,398 0 0	3,988 0 0	24,588 0 0	87,786 0 0
1919-1920	44,033 0 0	16,516 0 0	6,854 0 0	82,458 0 0	1,50,461 0 0
1920 1921	55,491 0 0	64,819 0 0	11,519 0 0	1,38,585 0 0	2,70,414 0 0
1921-1922 ... ... (up to December.)	1,51,293 9 7	89,022 12 11	19,113 15 8	1,48,583 14 8	4,08,614 4 10
				Grants-in-aid	43,199 0 0
				Miscellaneous	41,089 0 0
					4,92,893 4 10

Service of revenue processes.

286. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether the Government are contemplating issuing processes from the Revenue offices, especially those under the Revenue Sale Law, Public Demands Recovery Act, Cess Act, Embankments Act and Drainage Acts, through registered post with acknowledgment due?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): Government are not contemplating any change in the system of serving revenue processes by which processes which are not now sent by post would be so sent.

Resolutions

(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest)

Establishment of Telegraph Offices.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: In the absence of Dr. Moitra, I beg to move this resolution which runs as follows:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a Telegraph office be established at or within two miles of each thana."

This resolution speaks about the necessity of having at least one telegraph office within the jurisdiction of each thana and that these telegraph offices should not be more than two miles distant from the police-stations.

As a thana is the ultimate unit area into which each district is divided, I believe the proposal is a very resonable one nor can the measure entail any great cost. Most of the thanas are already provided with combined offices—a post office with a telegraph signaller, where the services of the signaller are utilised as an assistant to the post master in his various other works. In thanas where there is no combined office—I hope this number is not large—it would not cost much to have one of the post offices converted into a combined office with an assistant who knows signalling.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: May I rise to a point of order? Is not Telegraphs an imperial subject?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The resolution has been admitted and so can be discussed in the Council.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: As the income of combined offices are generally very much more than the additional cost of connection and maintenance, there will be no financial loss to the Postal Department for any such extension, and, I believe, the extension will add to its income invariably. The proposal of bringing the combined offices nearer to the police-stations where they happen to be situated at more than two miles distance cannot be very expensive, and, considering the advantages to the post offices themselves (*i.e.*, safe custody of funds, guard, etc.), cannot be objected to by the Department. From the people's point of view the necessity is imperative and I support the resolution in both the bearings.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): I discussed this matter with Dr. Moitra a few days ago and and gave him some figures and I understood that he was going to withdraw this resolution. However, as Dr. Haridhan Dutt has

moved it, I am quite prepared to tell the Council how the matter stands. In the first place, as Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy has just reminded us, this is an imperial question. We have no power ourselves to start telegraph offices. All we can do is to make a recommendation to the Government of India and ask them to open any offices that we think desirable. The first thing they would do on receiving our request would be to calculate the cost of keeping the telegraph office open, and they would then ask us to provide a guarantee. That guarantee might run up to a considerable amount. There are altogether 650 thanas in this Presidency outside Calcutta, and out of these only 254 have got telegraph offices at present; the remaining 396 thanas have no telegraph office. We do at present guarantee the expenditure of certain offices in the province and the annual average cost is Rs. 360 per office. Most of these offices which we guarantee are in accessible places, but the thanas that are without telegraph offices are, many of them, in very remote places where it would be expensive to construct telegraph wires and so on, and it would also be expensive to maintain a staff which would have very little work to do. I think at the lowest estimate, the cost to us of carrying out this proposal would be something between two and three lakhs of rupees a year. I need hardly tell the Council that we cannot afford to spend two or three lakhs a year on putting up telegraph offices in out-of-the-way places where they will be of very little use to Government and will not be of very much use to the local people. If there is a genuine demand in any place for a telegraph office, the proper course for the people interested is to approach the District Officer and tell him what the prospects of the telegraph office are so far as they can judge. The District Officer would then be in a position to represent the matter to Government and to say what the local contribution might be expected to be, and Government would then be able to estimate the importance of the telegraph office and the justification for supplying the necessary guarantee. But we are not prepared, as things stand, to recommend to the Government of India that they should put up these 396 telegraph offices all over the province straightaway. I am afraid, therefore, I cannot accept the resolution.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: At first I thought that the Government would take up this resolution sympathetically, but the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr concluded by saying that he could not recommend the establishment of telegraph offices which would come up to a very large number. If this resolution be accepted by the Council, the Council will be giving an expression of the feeling of the country, and the Government will be in a position to decide how far they can meet the wishes of the people. That is my reason why I ask the Council to vote for this resolution.

The motion was then put and lost.

Honorary Magistrates.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: I move "that this Council recommends to the Government that the number of posts of honorary magistrates be increased."

Everyone must admit that the cost of administration is getting higher and higher day by day. By the increased appointment of honorary magistrates, the administration of justice will be cheaper and when the policy of appointing honorary magistrates has proved a success, what is the harm in extending it? If my motion is given effect to, the number of deputy magistrates and sub-deputy magistrates may be considerably reduced. With these few words, I beg to commend my motion to the acceptance of the Council.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. His speech, translated is as follows:—

I move "that after the word 'magistrates' in this resolution the following be inserted, namely, 'and especially the number of Muhammadan honorary magistrates.' "

I am confident that one cannot possibly deny the fact that the number of honorary magistrates in Bengal is insufficient. There is a very poor number of them. It is far more amazing, especially to see only a very few Muhammadans holding this position. They are only in a microscopic minority. What a shocking idea indeed! Bengal—this great province of Bengal—which is so advanced in the light of learning and education, has only a handful of honorary magistrates. In my opinion, Sir, it would be well to have more honorary magistrates than there are at present. In the first place, the Deputy and the Sub-deputy Collectors will have less work to do. These officers have now to do a great deal of work, so much so, that they are at a loss to know how they can cope with it. Secondly, it may safely be mentioned that the expenses of the provincial fund will be lessened. The item of expenditure will not be so heavy as is now the case.

As time is very short, I do not intend to go on putting arguments after arguments, but would say a word or two more. It is startling to know that up to the present time very few Indians are in the position of subdivisional officers. In almost all places in Bengal, Europeans are in these posts and perchance we come across one Indian or so and he, even, is a Hindu. No Muhammadan holds this post. I have no grudge whatsoever against my Hindu brethren, but I say what I am to say—and feel it most necessary to say that which is in my heart and which I believe to be true—even at the risk of its being distasteful to many of my learned Hindu friends here. I would appeal to the authorities over here not to summarily reject our sentiment but to do things rightly and properly. It is, for this reason, Sir, that I am moving this amendment. I would again request the authorities and appeal to their good sense.

Babu JOGESH CHANDRA SARKAR: I beg to support the resolution. In all civilised countries the bulk of the magisterial duties is performed by magistrates elected by the people, who get no remuneration for the work they do. In this country also, the honorary magistrates materially assist the stipendiary magistrates in disposing of cases. The Government can effect a real economy in the employment of stipendiary magistrates, if it increases the number of honorary magistrates and arranges for the transfer of comparatively important cases to them for disposal. But care must be taken in the selection of men of the proper class. There should be no question of Hindus, Muhammadans, or Christians, but really honest and capable men should be selected after proper inquiry. I cannot understand why lawyers having no practice in the criminal courts, are not largely appointed as honorary magistrates. By education and training they are undoubtedly fitted to discharge the duties of a judge more efficiently than other members of the public. We find doctors, merchants, contractors and other professional men in the ranks of honorary magistrates, but only lawyers are considered incapable of dealing out even-handed justice—a thing without parallel in the civilised world. In these days when the air is surcharged with the talk of retrenchment and of the separation of the executive and judicial functions, I hope the Government will think fit to give the proposal a fair trial.

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): I am afraid Government cannot accept the resolution in its present form. The advantage of getting work done for nothing is one which will no doubt appeal to Government and in these days of scarcity of staff, I have no doubt that every district officer is always on the look-out to see how he can get some of his work done by somebody else. But there are certain circumstances which must be taken into consideration in appointing honorary magistrates. In the first place, you must get suitable people; in the second place, you must have suitable cases for trial by honorary magistrates; in the third place, you must have suitable accommodation, a suitable room to try their cases; and fourthly, you must have some staff to assist them in disposing of the cases and so forth. Where all those circumstances are present, it is obviously to the advantage of the District Magistrate to get his work done by a free agency, and I have no doubt that the District Magistrates have in all cases considered the question of further employment of honorary magistrates, and when the District Magistrates apply to Government for further appointment of honorary magistrates, Government have always considered their representations in a very sympathetic spirit. I do not think that Government ever refused to appoint honorary magistrates where the local officers said that they required more honorary magistrates and that there were suitable gentlemen in the district for such appointment. But it is no

use adding to the number of the honorary magistrates on our list if you are not going to get suitable men. Moreover, the appointment of honorary magistrates is not intended to be merely honorary, it is intended to be for the performance of work, and the number of benches in a district which can sit regularly is very limited. So far as this motion is concerned, I can assure the mover that Government will sympathetically consider any application from the District Magistrate to increase the number of honorary magistrates in his district, and I hope that in view of that assurance the mover will not press his motion.

The motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Age-limit for the Matriculation Examination.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: In the absence of Dr. Moitra, I take upon myself the privilege of moving this resolution which runs as follows:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the present age restriction of the Calcutta University for appearing at the Matriculation examination be immediately removed."

I have a few words to say about this proposal. I feel that during the last few years although the entrance to the University is permitted to matriculates, the actual state of things is that unless a student is an I.Sc. or an I.A. he has not the ghost of a chance of entering into the actual University. If anybody wants to go for medical studies, Matriculates have no chance. I.Sc.'s have been admitted to the medical colleges but a large percentage of medical students is B.Sc.'s and even M.Sc.'s. So the idea of opening the doors of the University to a student after he has matriculated may be all right in theory, but in practice this has not been found to be existing. Then again, in the Engineering examination, we find that those who have passed the B.Sc. or B.A. or at least the I.Sc. or I.A. are permitted to go to the Engineering College, but Matriculates have no chance, and in the Law also a similar state of affairs exist. That being so, the University rule that a Matriculate can enter the University is practically a dead letter. So it is worth while considering whether the actual examination for entrance to the University is the Matriculation or the I.A. or I.Sc standard. As it appears that the I.A. or I.Sc. standard is practically the admission standard of the University, it is desirable to find out what should be the proper age of a student who has got his I.A. or I.Sc. degree. At the present moment the age-limit for Matriculation students is 16 years, so actually, a student unless he is 18 years of age cannot hope to enter the University. It has been found that this is rather standing in the way of intelligent and bright students in gaining a very useful career in the University, and this has caused some amount of disappointment and resentment in the minds of those intelligent students. I have heard guardians of students complaining against this rule, and I think that the time has

come when the University may again think over the question as to whether it is not desirable to remove the age restriction altogether. As a medical man, I think it is desirable to have some age-limit, but at the same time we have to admit that the age-limit should not be arbitrary or so made that it would stand in the way of the harmonious development of all the faculties of the students. That is a reason why I for myself like that this question should again be taken up by the University and the Government. There is very little chance at the present moment of immature students going up for the Matriculation at the age of 13 or 14. The average age of such students is 15, and I personally think that the fixing of the age at 15 will be more desirable than the age-limit of 16 as at present. That is why I think that this resolution should be accepted by this Council and the Government and the University should be given an opportunity of discussing this question.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I regret very much that I cannot agree with Dr. Moitra in this matter. This is a matter entirely within the jurisdiction of the University and this Council should not interfere in this matter. Secondly, this has received consideration at the hands of the University and the Government for the last 50 years and it should not be decided off-hand in this fashion. Thirdly, the Matriculation examination will probably be abolished. In that view of the matter this resolution is a little bit premature.

(At this moment Dr. Moitra entered the Chamber.)

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: In commending my resolution to the kind acceptance of my colleagues and the Goverment of Bengal, I would say a few words only.

When the University of Calcutta was founded in 1857, an age-limit for the admission of students to the Matriculation (or as it was then called the Entrance) examination was prescribed. Candidates aged 15 years and 9 months were admitted. But in practice any candidate was allowed admission during the 16th year. This rule remained in force from 1858 to 1879. In 1880, the age-limit was abrogated and for nearly 30 years, there was no restriction as to the age of admission to the Matriculation Examination.

The Indian Universities Commission considered the matter in 1902. They actually recommended that a candidate should be required to have completed his 15th year at the date on which he appears at the examination. But the Indian Universities Act, 1904, did not itself prescribe any age-limit. The regulations of the University of Calcutta, framed in 1906 under the provisions of the Act, required, however, that the candidate is to complete the age of 16 years on the first day of the month in which he appears at the examination.

The reason for reintroducing the age-limit was that during the period of its abrogation, the number of candidates under 15 years of age had increased, and it was said that there was evidence that the education of a

considerable number of boys had been hurried and forced on with a view to their being sent forward to the University course although not yet mature for it.

The complete abrogation of the age-limit, as fixed by the Regulations of 1906, was proposed on 21st November, 1914, in the Senate of Calcutta University by Sir Gurudas Banarji but was unfortunately lost. Those members of the Senate who were disinclined to approve of any lowering of the present age-limit laid stress upon the immaturity of boys of 16 or less for the conditions of University life. Nothing can be more demoralising.

I would now place before you step by step the change of opinion on this particular subject of the one man who has been the chief guide of the Calcutta University for several years past. I need hardly say that I mean the Hon'ble Justice Sir Asutosh Mukharji. In 1914, in the Senate debate of 21st November, Sir Asutosh Mukharji said that he himself was responsible to some extent for this particular resolution. There was ample evidence, he said, to show that the education of a considerable number of boys was forced and hurried and that the boys who are not prepared and fit for a college course were being pushed through. This, he thought, was an undesirable state of things. In 1915, in the Senate debate on 9th January, he said that his experience showed that the rule which was enforced from 1858 to 1879 was a wholesome rule and that it caused no hardship. He did not, however, mention why that rule was abrogated in 1880, if there had been no adequate reasons for the abrogation. He further admitted that the problem which wanted solution was, what should be done with the specially gifted boys who are excluded from the Matriculation examination by the present age-limit. The number of such cases, he said, was far from being small and he admitted that numerous complaints from parents and guardians had already reached and were reaching the then Vice-Chancellor and the Syndicate. Of the many concrete cases of hardship known to Sir Asutosh he mentioned the case of one exceptionally brilliant boy who was 15 years 11 months and some days old at the time of the Matriculation examination. The father of the boy appealed to the Syndicate and the headmaster of the school to which the boy belonged and strongly urged the desirability of allowing the boy to proceed to the examination as a special case. The Syndicate's hands were, however, tied by the Regulations, and the unfortunate boy had to be kept for another year. The result, says Sir Asutosh, was extremely sad and disappointing, for, at the end of the year, the boy was found distinctly worse than in the year before. He observed that it would be idle to apply English parallels affecting secondary education in this province as he thought such parallels would be delusive. The wiser course would be, according to his opinion, to take cognisance of the existing conditions of things and to legislate for the country having in view those existing conditions which were peculiar to it. This was the opinion of Sir Asutosh

in January, 1915, *i.e.*, less than two months after the resolution of Sir Gurudas Banarji was lost in the Senate meeting. In 1917-1919, the opinion of Sir Asutosh has been embodied in the report of the Calcutta University Commission, of which he was an eminent member, whose bold hands are visible in almost every chapter of the Report. In chapter 9, volume I, of the Report, paragraph 95, page 290, the Commission asks—"Is it not better in the present circumstances for boys of exceptional and unusual merits and early promise to be promoted to college instead of being held back at school, where they get no fresh stimulus and no teaching which puts them on their mettle?'

In paragraph 98 of the same chapter of the same volume, the Commission says that the lowering of the present age-limit is generally recommended by the headmasters throughout Bengal and, as a matter of fact, Sir Asutosh, as the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, last year invited the headmasters of all high schools of Bengal and Assam as also the Syndicate of the Calcutta University to an informal conference in which he presided. Sir Asutosh Mukharji thought it desirable to elicit the opinions of the headmasters present to fix upon an age-limit for the Matriculation examination and the majority of the headmasters were in favour of the abolition of the present age-limit of 16 years.

There is one seemingly weighty reason in favour of the age restriction. It is the alleged inferior physique of the average Bengali boys as compared with the Anglo-Indian and Eurasians founded on the conclusions of Lieutenant-Colonel McCay's book on "The problem of nutrition of Bengalis" as was described by Rai Chunilal Bose Bahadur in the Senate meeting of January, 1921, but this apparent fact will not bear a moment's scrutiny. The statistics published by Lieutenant-Colonel McCay was to prove that the average Bengali boys had to live on diet inferior to the average of European or Eurasian. I am not going to dispute that, but may I ask what is the remedy? Is it the fixing of the age-limit to 16 years, or to improve the quality of diet of these students? Has the said Rai Bahadur been able to prove that the average European or Eurasian boys are intellectually superior to the Indian of the same age? If not, where does his opinion stand? If so, Sir Gurudas Banarji, Sir Rash Behari Ghose, Sir Ali Imam would not have been exponents of abolishing this regulation, as it is idle to think that they had not the best interests of their country at heart when they advocated the abolition of this regulation. Medical experience during the last 18 years has not yet enabled me to associate good health with the present age-limit or the reverse, and I am certain that if the cause of the lowering of health amongst the alumni of this University be investigated, insufficient and unwholesome food, living in unhealthy surroundings due to their straitened circumstances and neglect of physical exercises will be found to be the chief reasons for the deterioration of their health and not the commencement of the University career at a tender age. If inferior physique always

meant inferior mental equipment, where would Sir Chandra Madhab Ghose, Sir Gurudas Banarji, Mr. Saroda Charan Mitter, Dr. S. P. Sarbadhikari, Sir P. C Roy and others stand? Is it not fair to ask the candidates to produce a certificate of good health for appearing at the examination along with their usual certificates of good character and attendance, if the Government is convinced of their utility?

Another reason why I want the abolition of this regulation is that in some cases age returns are submitted which cannot be called accurate owing to the not unnatural desire of the parents and guardians to see their children or wards educated without the least possible delay, and in support of my statement I would read the note of a member of the Calcutta University Commission. He says—"I find it impossible to avoid the conclusion that the strict enforcement of the age rule induces a number of candidates to furnish inaccurate returns of their age in order to enter for the examination a year earlier than otherwise be allowed." I may also cite the opinion of Miss L. Sorabji—"The University allows a student to correct the age at the eleventh hour, thus inviting parents to make misstatements in a court of law." Sir, I have quoted the names of several Indians who have given their verdict for the abolition of this age restriction. Many of them have passed their Entrance examination at an age lower than the present age-limit and these men have already shed lustre to their country by their singular attainments without any detriment to their physical and mental well-being.

In this connection I would now draw your attention to certain facts and figures.

In reply to my question No. 187 of 29th November, I find that out of a total of 51 Premchand Roychand Scholars of the Calcutta University on or before 1910, there were as many as 39 scholars below the present age-limit when they passed the Entrance Examination and I shall cite some names (Rai Bahadur Abinash Bose, present Controller of Examinations—age 15, Mr. Upendra Lal Majumdar, Accountant-General—age 15, late Mr. Wheeler, 13 years 3 months, Dr. J. N. Sen, PH.D. of the Imperial Research Institute, Pusa,—14 years, Radha Mukund Mukherji, PH. D. etc. Out of the 5 D.L.'s as many as 4 were below 16 when they passed the Entrance Examination. Of the M.D.'s out of 14, as many as eight were under 16—Dr. Brahmachari passed at the age of 13 years 5 months. Of the M.A.'s who stood 1st in the 1st class, out of 43 gentlemen up to 1910, as many as 82 were below the present age-limit when they passed their Entrance examination and of these some names may be familiar to my colleagues here as the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Zahid Suhrawardy, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath Bhadra of Dacca (12 years), Dr. Abdulla Suhrawardy, M.L.C.

In conclusion I appeal to you in the name of fairness and justice on behalf of the most brilliant of our boys, the unjust sufferers of this arbitrary rule, boys whose precocity of intellect has been sought to be

curbed by enforcing idleness at a time which, in reality, is the most promising period of their lives and I again appeal to you to abolish the age restriction, the utility of which has been seriously questioned by men like Sir Gurudas Banarji, Sir Rash Behari Ghose, Sir Ali Imam and others, and I also appeal to my colleagues here to lend me their whole-hearted support if they are convinced of the utility of my resolution.

Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: I beg to support the resolution moved by my colleague Dr. Jatindra Nath Moitra. Many of us are aware that since the new University Regulations came into force in 1910, fixing the age-limit of Matriculation candidates at 16 years, the University had, from time to time, issued notices to guardians for the correction of age-entries of their wards in the school register within a fixed time. This time was extended from year to year and we do not know if it ever will be possible for the University to fix a final date after which no such correction would be allowed. The number of applications received by the University for age-correction, as far as my information goes, is very large, and if I am not mistaken, the corrected age is, in most cases, just over 16 years. I do not wish to comment on what all this means. Everybody will admit that this is not a happy state of affairs. Again, I know of at least one boy who has stood first in the University and yet he could not appear at the Matriculation Examination in his 15th year, and had to mark time till he attained his 16th year. The father of the boy was too honourable to think of changing the boy's age to suit the University regulations. Indian boys are generally precocious and many of them pass the present Matriculation examination before 16. The fixing of an age-limit means hardship to the most brilliant boys. I therefore strongly support this resolution which proposes to do away with the present age restriction.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I beg to support the resolution that has been moved by Dr. Moitra. I think in England there is no such rule as when to pass the Entrance examination. It is only lately that this rule has been introduced in order that some of our boys may not come for the I.C.S. Examination for the age restriction is limited. I think, therefore, that it is the bounden duty of every well-wisher of the country to see that there ought not to be any age restriction for passing the Matriculation examination. It is only a loop-hole that has been given to many. We know that when some boys are not allowed to appear at the examination because he has not completed the 16th year, sometimes affidavits are sworn and I think the authorities of the University will bear me out that such affidavits were sworn and those affidavits were only resorted to to avoid boys going up for Matriculation examination before they completed their 16th year. Therefore, as a matter of fact, it is generally done and horoscope prepared and the boys, who go to the Matriculation class when they have not completed their

16th year, have to rot in that class for two or three years. This is a great drawbrack in their education.

I therefore submit that the resolution ought to be considered.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I give this resolution my whole-hearted support and I do it on three grounds. First, any age restriction is unnecessary; and secondly, it causes needless hardships; and thirdly, it has a demoralising effect on Indian boys. I say it is unnecessary because during my 27 years' experience, I did not find that there is any appreciable difference between a boy who comes to the 1st year class at the age of 16 or at the age of 15. My experience goes to confirm that it is the younger boy who always does better. Of course, our misfortune in Bengal is that our boys are very intelligent and this is a penalty on intelligence. In years gone by, teachers did not take sufficient interest in their boys. They thought that their duty was to attend the school to teach for 4 or 5 periods and then to go home and not to have anything to do with the boys. Conditions have considerably changed. Our teachers now take a great deal of interest in the boys and we have manly games after school hours, *viz.*, football, cricket and hockey, etc., and we see hundreds of boys taking part in these games and when you have the testimony of two such eminent doctors, I do not think I need say much on the question of health. I say it causes needless hardship because it really seems to me nothing but cruelty to a boy who has attained the age of 15 years and 9, 10 or 11 months and then kept back simply for the sake of one month, sometimes for the sake of one day only. I know of cases where students have actually been held back for the reason that they were one day short of completing the 16th year. What difference does it make between a boy of 15 years 11 months and 29 days and one who is 16 years? Absolutely there is no difference between the two. But still the former boy has to wait for another 12 months. My third ground is that it has a most demoralising effect. I have seen students needlessly waiting for 12 months. They do not know what to do in the class. They simply keep quiet there without doing anything. This has naturally a most depressing effect on them. For these reasons I think that this is an unnecessary restriction and should be removed.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): I may tell the mover of this resolution, whether he is Dr. Dutt or Dr. Moitra, that I welcome a debate on the subject, and may make a preliminary observation somewhat of a personal nature and tell my friends that I myself appeared at the Matriculation examination before I was 15, and I do not think I suffered for having done so. I have mentioned this fact to assure the mover that not only have I no preconceived notion against the motion but that I am inclined to consider it with every sympathy. I desire, however, to place certain facts before the House. In the first place,

as Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur has pointed out, the initiative in this matter can be taken only by the University. That is an aspect of the question which the House should bear in mind.

There is another aspect. That the House has already passed a resolution for the establishment of a secondary board. That has a very important bearing on this question because the Calcutta University Commission went into the matter very fully and the Commissioners stated thus in volume IV, chapter 31, paragraph 55, pages 60-61, and volume V, Chapter LII, paragraph 3, pages 298-299, and the summary of their views as set forth in the last reference are:—

> There should be two secondary school examinations, the first, approximately corresponding to the present Matriculation, to be taken at the end of the High School stage, at the normal age of 16, or in special cases, at the age of 15 and to be known as the High School Examination; the second, approximately corresponding to the present intermediate, but much more varied in its range, to be taken at the end of the intermediate college course at the normal age of 18, and to be known as the Intermediate College Examination. Success at this examination should constitute the normal basis of admission to the University courses."

Lower down they explain what they mean by special cases. They say:—

> "There is every reason to hope that when the teaching in those schools has been improved——

(I draw the particular attention of the House to this portion),

> a college pupil will be able to finish the course at about 16 and a half or 17 years of age. Some pupils of exceptional promise will be ready for the examination by 15½. We recommend that with the aproval of the headmaster of the school a candidate whose age is not less than 15 on the first day of the month in which the examination is held should be allowed to present himself for it.

That is to say according to the recommendation of the Calcutta University Commission on the recommendation of the headmaster of a school, a boy could be allowed to appear about 11 months earlier than the present age of 16. They also pointed out at page 291, volume I of the Report that only about 10 per cent. were actually below 16, so that although the hardship was no doubt great with regard to boys who are not allowed to go up, yet it is only with regard to 10 per cent. that we have this hardship.

I have some further difficulty as well. I would like to be assured as to the age that is demanded by the community and it must be admitted that the community has a say in the matter. The community, however, has no definite opinion in the matter. According to some the age-limit should be 15, according to others 16 or 15, or 14 or even no age-limit. Then we must have the views of the educational authorities. According to the recommendation of the University Commission—a recommendation which is entitled to very high weight—the age should be 16, but in special cases on the special recommendation of the headmaster of the institution concerned a boy may be allowed to appear before 16.

In some of the Universities, 15 has been fixed as the age-limit and I have heard it stated by a responsible person that 14 should be the age-limit and now we have the recommendation that there should be no age-limit whatsoever. The question as to whether there should or should not be any age-limit whatsoever or if there is to be any age-limit at all, whether it should be 15 or 14 has an important bearing on the acceptance of the resolution as it stands. We have also heard the argument that a hard and fast rule gives rise to hardships and a boy may be debarred even if his age falls short by even a day. I may say at once that I sympathise with cases like these. This argument, however, is not quite relevant. If 15 be the age-limit then there will be the same hardship for a boy whose age is one or two days' short; and if 14 be the age-limit the same question will also arise.

This House has already passed a resolution recommending that a Secondary Board of Education should be established. My department has the matter under its consideration and I trust that during this official year some definite action will be possible; if some definite action be taken then there will be no need for passing this resolution; if, however, some definite action be not taken with regard to the establishment of a Secondary Board then it would be desirable to come to a conclusion about the age-limit for the Matriculation examination. In that case, perhaps, we should consult some educational authorities in this matter. During this official year, the Calcutta University applied for sanction for a modification of the rules. The modification suggested was to the effect that instead of the words " last day of the year " the words should be " first day of the month." My department suggested to the University that in view of the probability of early legislation, the matter might wait. Since then we have received another representation from the University which is under consideration. In any view of the matter, I am willing to give it my best consideration and I may also state that I shall consider and decide the matter during this official year, but the decision will depend on contingencies like the establishment of a Board for Secondary Education or other legislation relating to the Calcutta University. I trust that after this assurance the hon'ble mover of the resolution—whether it be Dr. Moitra or Dr. Dutt—will withdraw his motion.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: As the resolution belongs to my friend, Dr. Moitra, and I only moved it, I yield my right of reply to him.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: No; you cannot do that. Since you moved the original resolution, it is for you to reply.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: May I say a few words—

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I am afraid Dr. Moitra has no right of reply.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I simply say that I do not like to say anything in the way of a reply.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Withdrawal of resolution.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: I beg to withdraw the resolution standing in my name.

The following resolution was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the principle of free compulsory primary education be adopted and that a Bill be brought in in the next session of the Council to give effect to this principle."

Provincial and Subordinate Executive Service.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I move "that this Council recommends to the Government that appointments to the provincial executive service and the subordinate executive service be made by competitive examinations from among Bengali graduates, with such qualification as may secure such proportion of Muhammadan, Domiciled European and Anglo-Indian, and Indian Christian recruits as may seem proper to the Government without impairing the efficiency of the service."

Competitive examination for the Government services is the very foundation of democracy. Autocracy and favouritism go together. The privileged classes get appointments by nomination while the young and intelligent young men, who have got good education but no patrons, have no chance of securing them. So the reform that is essential now is that the services should go to the very best men, and that can be secured only by means of competitive examination. We know that the Civil Service will be recruited by competitive examination this year in India, and there is no reason why the provincial services should not be recruited by the same method. I understand that Government itself is willing to introduce the system of competitive examination as a means of admission into the Public Services. Lord Ronaldshay said so before he went away and I hope that our present Governor will kindly accede to our request for the introduction of competitive examination. That is all that I have got to say on this subject.

Babu BHISHMADEV DAS: I move, by way of amendment, that in motion No. 111 after the words "Indian Christian recruits" the words "and recruits from the depressed classes" be inserted.

On account of the uneven spread of education amongst the different communities, the present system of nomination was introduced. If again, open competitive examination is sought to be introduced, there should be safeguards for the proper and adequate representation of the depressed or backward classes. As one who has the proud privilege of representing the interests of the backward classes in this House, I hope I shall not be taking up too much of the precious time of this House if I venture to put the case of these classes at some length. A hundred and seventy years of British administration have rolled by and if we search the pages of the Civil List we shall not find more than a dozen names at most, nor will the search for a touch of sympathy be more fruitful if we examine the back files of the newspapers of Bengal or of the records of conferences and congresses of the so-called public leaders who, it is curious to find, profess more sympathy for a handful of Indians in Fiji and South Africa than for the millions of their neighbours who are literally and not metaphorically hewers of wood and drawers of water even at this day. Surely this is very unsatisfactory. I believe that there cannot be any reasonable exception to the suggestion that these millions of people should have their rightful place in the administration of the land. The executive on which lies the sole responsibility of smooth and peaceful administration cannot shut their eyes to the probable, nay, sure discontent that will follow if, in the name of fairness, so many classes, who form the bulk of the Hindu population of Bengal, are completely excluded from any share in the administration of the land. The duty of the Legislature for the present is to see how soon through the evenness of the spread of education all shades of political thoughts can be brought round the very desirable object of open competition and, in the meantime, to keep a vigilant eye that all classes do get their due and just representation in the administration of the province. Let us not so soon forget the memorable words of His Majesty the King-Emperor which deserve to be written in characters of gold. I refer to one passage of His Majesty's proclamation of December 23rd, 1919, which is as follows:—

> I rely on the new popular assemblies to interpret wisely the wishes of those whom they represent and not to forget the interests of the masses who cannot yet be admitted to the franchise.

It is known that out of 46 millions of people of Bengal only a little more than a million have been enfranchised. It is not also unknown to any member of this House that all classes have not been adequately represented here. That point is patent from the fact that I alone stand here to represent the interests of not less than ten millions of people of Bengal. This House is, therefore, morally bound, and the House failing, it devolves upon the Executive, to do justice to those who have been looking, and still look forward, to them for the protection of their interests. To deny them this justice would be the very

negation of the main principle for which British administration stands in India.

The mover of the resolution is sympathetic towards the claims of Muhammadans, Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians but he omits the depressed or backward classes. They form the real backbone of the Hindus of this province and unless and until their condition is improved and their claims properly regarded, no real progress will be effected. If special protection is needed for any community the claims of the depressed classes stand foremost. I appeal to Government and the members of the House to do justice to the depressed classes.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am prepared to accept the amendment of Babu Bhishmadev Das.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: On the last occasion, when this matter was brought before the Council, there were many different motions and the Council suffered from a want of decision as to exactly what they wished Government to do. On the present occasion, the mover has avoided this by throwing the onus on the Government and leaving the Council to criticise freely any regulation that Government may frame. Government have been reproached with hastening very slowly with regard to competitive examinations. I, as Chief Secretary, have suffered as much as anyone from the inconvenience of the nomination system, but Government have not had a free hand. In the Government of India Act, there is a provision that a Public Services Commission shall be appointed to perform such duties as may be laid down by rules of the Secretary of State. In the first draft of the rules made by the Secretary of State under the Statute, there was a provision that the Public Services Commission shall conduct the recruitment for provincial services. We had, therefore, to wait and see what the Public Services Commission wished us to do when it was appointed. So far it has done nothing, and Government are proposing now to hold on their own a competitive examination for the appointments this year. We have drawn up a syllabus and we have drawn up rules subject to any objection on the part of the Government of India. We propose to publish as quickly as possible and thus give as long a notice as possible, and to hold a competitive examination in September, or about the end of the current year. In that view, Government are prepared to accept the resolution.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Although the motion has been accepted by Government, may I be allowed to say a few words?

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: In view of the resolution having been accepted by Government, I do not see the utility of your making a speech.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I shall be very brief. I am glad that the resolution has commended itself to Government, but there are certain aspects of the question which ought not to overlooked. The points are these. There are certain families which have rendered distinguished services to Government, or there may be families or persons who may render distinguished services to Government. Their families might be embarrassed or impoverished and might consist of members who are well educated and graduates of the University. Would not Government reserve something in their hands to help the scions of such struggling and impoverished families which have rendered distinguished services to Government?

If competition is to be the only door to admission to the higher provincial service, I would also ask the Hon'ble Member to consider whether such appointments as the Coroner of the Police Court or stipendiary magistrates should not be thrown open to competitive examination or whether they should continue to be recruited from high and respectable families only? I do not see why the Coroner of the Police Court should be recruited from the legal profession only. I do not understand why these appointments also should not be open to competitive examination.

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): These officers do not belong to the executive service and so this question does not arise at all.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: Why should stipendiary magistrates be recruited from well connected and respectable families only? Let the general public have a chance if the Rai Bahadur's resolution is adopted. I think this is a matter which deserves the attention of Government.

The resolution was then put in the following amended form and agreed to:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that appointments to the provincial executive service and the subordinate executive service be made by competitive examination from among Bengal graduates, with such qualification as may secure such proportion of Muhammadan, Domiciled European and Anglo-Indian and Indian Christian recruits, and recruits from the depressed classes as may seem proper to the Government, without impairing the efficiency of the service."

Withdrawal of resolutions.

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA being absent, the following resolution, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the Bengal Municipal Act and the Bengal Local Self-Government Act be taken

up as early as possible for amendment, revision and modification, to meet the growing conditions of the country."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ being absent, the following resolution, standing in his name, was deemed to be withdrawn:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to give as wide publicity as possible by publishing in local newspapers, or in such other manner as the Government may think fit, at least one month before such sales are held, the particulars of properties to be sold by Collectors under the Public Demands Recovery Act."

Improvement of water-supplies of municipalities and boards.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I move "that this Council recommends to the Government that with a view to drawing up a practical and economical scheme for the early improvement of the water-supplies of municipalities and boards dependent upon sources known to be either polluted or doubtful, early steps be taken for a careful survey, including bacteriological and chemical examination, of all existing sources of water-supply in those places in order to decide how far it may be possible to make use of the existing tanks or wells as initial sources of supply and how far the water may be purified in the simplest and most economical manner possible."

The subject of filtered water-supply is one of the highest importance to Bengal. Most sanitarians are of opinion that a large amount of mortality, practically from cholera, is due to the consumption of polluted water and can be easily avoided by the provision of filtered water. In all civilised countries, the provision of filtered water-supply is considered a primary duty of the State. In Bengal, however, out of a total population of 45 millions, only 17·5 lakhs or less than 2 per cent. of the population is provided with filtered water. Even taking towns, out of a total of 116 only 36 towns have so far got water-supplies. During the past six years, only six water-works have come into existence. At this rate, it will take close on a century only for the town, not to speak of rural areas, to have filtered water-supply. As filtered water-supply is, however, an absolute necessity, especially in view of the appalling mortality from cholera, it is imperatively necessary to have an inquiry as to how the provision of filtered water in towns may be expedited. In the first place, the present methods of purification of water seem to be extremely costly, and secondly, these methods do not also seem to improve the quality of the water to a sufficient degree. The Department of the Director of Public Health has been examining a large number of samples of water from various water-works in Bengal. The result of these examinations points to the disappointing conclusion that in the case of many of the water-works, the methods of purification are absolutely inefficient. The inference is that a large sum of public money is being regularly wasted in the construction of water-works

which do not actually serve its purpose. For instance, the town of Jessore has set up filters only six years ago and the water-works has altogether cost Rs. 2,18,000. Still, last year, during summer, when the demand for water was at the highest, the filters broke down completely and the filtered water was found so foul, that nobody would use it and the water-works had to be closed for a time. The Director of Public Health is of opinion that the type of filter is not suitable. More or less similar types of filters have been set up in some of the towns that have had water-supply recently such as Natore, Rajbari and Satkhira. In all these cases, the Director of Public Health finds the process of purification quite inefficient. Again, at Pirojpur, a large sum of money has been spent in erecting water-works, but the Director of Public Health finds it absolutely inefficient. If further large sums of money are not to be wasted in setting up filters which do not work properly, it is most necessary in the public interest to have a searching inquiry if these mechanical filters are suited to Bengal. In this connection it may be noted that this type of filter, which is being set up in Bengal during the past seven years, is different from that in use at the Palta water-works and also from that in use at London. If slow sand filters are good enough for Calcutta and London, we have to learn the reason why different types of filters should be set up in the mufassal towns, specially when they are condemned by sanitary experts. An inquiry on the subject will result in finding out the most profitable way of spending money on water-supply projects and put an end to the present wastage of public money on filters which do not work efficiently.

To illustrate the urgent necessity for the provision of pure water in these places, I shall quote a few figures from the annual Reports of the Sanitary Commissioner. In 1919, the town of Cox's Bazar, with a population of 4,328, had a cholera mortality of 7·8 per mille which was the third highest rate in the whole of Bengal. The town of Katwa, with a population of 6,904, showed a cholera death-rate of 6·8 per mille. Muktagacha, with a population of 6,555 showed a death-rate of 6·1 per mille. In 1918, the town of Katwa showed a still higher death-rate of 8·0 per mille, the second highest figure obtained for the Bengal towns. Cox's Bazar also showed a high figure, 5·3 per mile. Danihati with a population of 5,342 showed a death- rate of 6·2 per mille. Sudharam, with a population of 7,000, showed 6·0 per mille. In 1915, the town of Sherpur-Bogra, with a population of 4,000, showed 14·67, the highest cholera death-rate in Bengal. Taki, with a population of 5,200, showed 4·94. In 1914, Kotrung showed the high rate of 6·84 per mille. Nadia, with a population of 12,480, showed the extremely high rate of 12·9 per mille and is the highest cholera death-rate for the year in Bengal.

While death is reaping such a rich harvest in those places, one reads that a scheme costing Rs. 5,00,000 is under contemplation for Kalimpong and that Rs. 75,000 was spent for repairing the Lake in Darjeeling. Without for a moment disputing the utility of spending large

sums of money on the water-supply scheme in big towns, it must be said that frequently it seems as if it is done at the expense of the requirements of the smaller towns. The greater urgency of these water-supply schemes in these places in view of these appalling cholera mortality appears to be mostly overlooked. I have arranged the towns of Bengal in the order of their death-rate from cholera. This shows the instructive fact that most of the towns with high death-rate are those without some water-supply and that many of these are smaller towns which it is not likely, as things go at present, that there would be any supply schemes for several decades to come. I have, therefore, come to the conclusion that every year a certain amount shall exclusively be set apart for this specific purpose to be spent according to the urgency of the towns as judged by cholera death-rate. When only a town returns a very high cholera death-rate it could be possible to vote, for that, a small sum from this grant, so that it would be possible for it to make a beginning in starting a town water-supply of the type of Faridpur filter.

I am quite aware that for Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 it is not possible to have up-to-date filtering arrangements, but I maintain that if we are to wait until it is possible to have these ideal arrangements, the day will never come at all. Further, I have the authority of the present Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. Fry, M.D., C.I.E., D.S.O., I.M.S., for the statement that for these towns merely reserved tanks with pumps attached will do very well indeed as water-supplies. Such simple arrangement can easily be made for a sum like Rs. 5,000 or even less. If a beginning is thus made it will also be possible for the town to go in for a regular pipe water-supply when sufficient money is available. The Faridpur filters are cheap to construct and are the only filters that have any likelihood of being widely introduced in Bengal. The Sanitary Commissioner, Dr. Bentley, states that wherever these filters have been installed, there has been a notable reduction of cholera mortality. I therefore submit that these filters may be widely installed in Bengal. Another greater advantage with these filters is that they are capable of improvement.

In view of the opinion that in many of the water-works in Bengal, the process of filtration is inefficient and unsatisfactory, I ask this Council to agree to an inquiry to be held with a view to ascertaining the best method of purifying water in mufassal towns and, pending the results of such an inquiry, no further sum of money be spent in the construction of mechanical filters of the present type. The available funds, in the meanwhile, should be devoted for improving the existing sources of water-supply of small towns which cannot afford to have a filtered water-supply.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): I have listened with very great interest and attention to the speech of my hon'ble

friend Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur. All his speeches indicate great labour bestowed upon their preparation, and upon the collection of materials which he gathers from different sources. So whatever Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur says with regard to sanitary problems, and especially with regard to water-supply, is entitled to the utmost consideration and weight. Giving all that due consideration and weight which it deserves, I feel considerable difficulty even under these conditions to accept the resolution which he has put forward for the acceptance of the House. If I may use a homely, though perhaps a vulgar phrase, I would say it is rather a large order. He wants a comprehensive survey of the whole of Bengal, municipal and rural, to be made with a view to the evolution of a practical scheme of water-supply. It is an ideal which is perfect, but the practical difficulties in the way of its acceptance are enormous. In the first place, there is that ever-constant, ever-present difficulty—want of funds, and we have not got the money. It means heavy expenditure, and my friend will admit that we have not got money for that. We are hard-pressed for the moment; urgent schemes are awaiting, and to these schemes we must apply ourselves at once. I quite admit that the present water-supply is very inadequate. In fact, the two great problems now confronting us in Bengal are the problem of water-supply and the problem of anti-malarial operations, and, therefore, the question is very important. But, as I have said, we are suffering from want of funds, and we must adapt our sanitary programmes to the money that is available. We are not insensible to the shortage of water-supply and I may point out to my friend that we are considering schemes from municipalities and we are always ready to consider schemes which the Local and District boards may put forward. But then the conditions are so different that the water-supply scheme of one particular district may not be applicable to another. Therefore, it seems to me, the local conditions being so different, that it is impossible to determine what possible water-supply scheme is suited to any particular district.

I may further point out to my friend the solicitude and anxiety which we feel in this connection. He will remember that we appointed a committee for the purpose of inquiring into a suitable system of water-supply for the riparian municipalities; I think you, Sir, are a member of that Committee. The Committee has submitted its report and it recommends very important measures—I ought to correct myself; the Committee has not submitted its report; it is only the draft report that I have seen. The Committee is of opinion that each municipality should stand on its own legs. Our original idea was that all these municipalities should combine for the purpose of developing schemes of water-supply for the riparian municipalities. The Committee is not of that opinion, but thinks that each municipality should formulate its own scheme of water-supply and has suggested a system of Artesian wells which it thinks

would be the best, and such a system in its opinion would be within the financial capacity of the various municipalities concerned. Here you have got a scheme applicable to the riparian municipalities.

My friend has referred to the water-works of the Fardipur Municipality. There is, however, considerable difference of opinion with regard to this. My friend was very eulogistic in his mention of the Faridpur water-works, but I am unable to accept his view. There is a difference of opinion between the Sanitary Engineer and the Director of Public Health, who are our experts, as regards the system of water supply to be adopted in any locality. That being so, it seems to me that the best thing under the circumstances, the most practical thing to do in the situation in which we find ourselves, is to take up the scheme for each municipality as it comes up, to consider the schemes upon their own merits and then carry them out individually. If our experts advise that combined action in a particular locality will be helpful, we shall have to accept that. But if they tell us, on the other hand, that any other scheme of water-supply will be more beneficial, we shall have to accept that. It seems to me, therefore, that instead of having a comprehensive scheme which my friend advocates, we should encourage the various local bodies to formulate their schemes of water-supply, and submit them to Government; and Government will test them under the guidance of expert officers. I have anticipated the resolution and have already issued a circular to which I have called attention more than once in this Council, inviting the district boards to the question of anti-malarial operations and water-supply, and have asked them to hold conferences with a view to furnishing Government with schemes regarding these questions in their districts. Some of them have complied with our requests; some have not; most of them have concentrated their attention on the question of anti-malarial operations. Therefore, my friend ought to know that we are doing our best in this direction, and what is more, we propose to include in our supplementary budget a considerable sum of money for water-supply. In the circumstances, I advise my friend to withdraw the resolution, assurance being given that Government will pay the utmost attention to this question; Government is most anxious to help forward, to the greatest extent possible, schemes of water-supply in the rural and municipal areas, and Government will always be ready to consider schemes submitted by local bodies. Government is prepared to raise loans to make grants and to deal with these schemes in a spirit of generosity consistent with their importance. After that assurance, I hope my friend will see his way o withdraw the resolution.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I have listened with great attention to the learned speech of my friend, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, for whom I entertain the highest regard. I have been working in this connection for the last 20 years, and I believe I have got some knowledge as to the way in which water is to be supplied

to towns and villages, but I find considerable difficulty. There are two processes of water-supply—mechanical and non-mechanical. The mechanical process, so far as we find, has not given any satisfactory results. I have illustrated that in my opening speech and I hope I made it clear. Therefore, I was obliged to solicit the attention of the Council and especially the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the question whether the existing sources of water-supply may be improved in the simplest and most economical manner possible. I know the Hon'ble Minister has great sympathy for these matters; but I do press upon him that if he is to wait and wait and then to formulate schemes taken from one municipality to the other or from one district board to the other it will take a long time. Considering the difficulties of Government as regards money, I have thought fit to come forward with this resolution to ask the Hon'ble Minister to make a survey and an inquiry on the subject. What possible objection can there be? I know he has not sufficient funds at his disposal; but at the same time, when my proposal is that an inquiry —a wider inquiry, a wider survey should be made into the matter taking Bengal as a whole, what possible objection can there be on the part of the Hon'ble Minister? He has asked the municipalities to put forward schemes; he has asked the district boards to put forward schemes. But supposing these bodies have not got any definite opinion on the subject, is it not necessary in the interest of the public that a wider inquiry, a wider survey, should be made regarding this matter, which is the most important matter which one can imagine, *viz.*, water-supply filtered water-supply? I can say from my own experience that if you can supply good water to villages and towns, the mortality will be decreased. You want to leave the matter to the municipalities and the district boards, but I ask you to take it up at once and make a survey on the lines I have suggested. I, therefore, do not find myself in a position to withdraw the resolution. I should like to see the motion put before the Council and have its opinion on the matter. No subject is more important before the Council for discussion than this question of water-supply—filtered water-supply.

The motion was then put and lost.

Unemployment of the educated middle class in Bengal.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I move" that this Council recommends to the Government that a mixed committee of official and non-official experts be appointed to study, investigate, and report upon the problem of unemployment of the educated middle class in Bengal as well as to suggest such remedial and preventive measures as may appear to be necessary in order to relieve the gravity of the situation caused thereby, and that the said committee be specially directed to formulate a programme of work on such lines as may facilitate the active co-operation of the Government and the public in combating the evils of unemployment in the community referred to."

In moving this resolution, I may preface my speech by expressing the hope that both the official and non-official members of this Council will admit that it is a non-contentious and non-controversial resolution. It deals with a subject which is now engaging the attention of astute statesmen in various parts of the world. Unemployment is the root cause of political discontent and political unrest not only in India, but in all parts of the world. An analysis of the present situation will reveal the fact that in Bengal the root cause of the present discontent and the present ferment which no one, not even the members of the bureaucracy can deny, is due to the fact that the evils of unemployment especially amongst the educated classes have assumed gigantic proportions and threatens the very foundations of social peace and contentment.

The cry to-day everywhere is for *Swaraj* which aims not only at national Government but economic salvation, and the cry gathers strength and momentum owing to the fact that people are so hard hit by economic distress that they think that the present system of Government must be changed in order that the present economic distress may be alleviated, and that the people may be rescued from chronic poverty. Whatever may be the political privileges or reforms that may be granted to us, and for which we shall be undoubtedly grateful to Government and the British nation, nothing can alleviate or mitigate to any extent the discontent which is now prevailing throughout the length and breadth of the country, unless this all-important problem is seriously taken up and remedial measures are applied. I therefore bring forward this resolution and commend it to the acceptance of the Council with all the earnestness and conviction that I possess.

We are passing through an intensely critical time. It is no use mincing matters; political unrest is growing and is manifesting itself in various forms and shapes. We are now daily witnessing outbursts of restlessness and commotion everywhere. The elements of discontent are fast multiplying. It is not my purpose nor is this the time or place to probe the causes of the present situation nor to suggest a remedy. My present purpose is only to draw the attention of Government to one aspect of the matter, an ominous phenomenon, the phenomenon of the growing unemployment of the middle classes in Bengal, and its vital connection with the current political ferment in the country. It is the lesson of universal history that political and social upheavals have, in nine cases out of ten, an economic origin. "The most dreadful rebellion is the rebellion of the belly," so said an English philosopher of the sixteenth century. And who can deny that the present economic stress and strain has a great deal to do with the political storm that is now raging? High prices and precarious wages, the aftermath of the great European war, together with the dislocation of trade and commerce and the consequent shrinkage of the avenues of employment and income have hit hard every section of the community, and none are more helpless in the face of this crisis than the middle classes who are the brain and the backbone of society.

Nor is it likely that the gradual rehabilitation of trade and industry according to normal conditions will bring in any appreciable relief in the present serious predicament of the middle classes in general, most of whom, in Bengal, are non-productive wage-earners. The avenues of employment of the educated classes are few and well-known. Government service which is a close preserve of the lucky man, the Bar and other learned professions are congested from top to bottom, and the beaten tracks of clerkship and parasitic occupations, are overcrowded from one end to the other. These are the usual avenues of employment of the middle classes, the educated *bhadralogs* in Bengal. It is a well known economic law that any irregularity in the balance of demand and supply results in disorder.

Here, in Bengal, the schools and colleges, the manufactory of the disgruntled graduate and undergraduate, turn out an ever-increasing supply, at least ten times greater than what the existing demand can absorb. The result is the unemployed young man, educated and able, craving for competency, with little or no capital to fall back upon hungering for bread and thirsting for employment, a prey to melancholy and despair in the very prime of life. It was very truly said by one of the greatest thinkers of the ninteenth century: "A man willing and unable to find work is, perhaps, the saddest sight that fortune's inequality exhibits under the sun." And it may be added that such a man is a potential malcontent, a prospective peril and menace to social peace. Unemployment is the breeding-ground of political discontent; it reinforces the ranks of those whom you condemn and stigmatise in season and out of season as the professional agitator. Employ the unemployed, and you deprive him of his capacity for mischief. Middle class unemployment, as I have said, is a world-wide tragedy, but here, in India, particularly in Bengal, the tragedy is simply appalling in the misery, degradation and dire consequence which it entails. It requires no statistical calculation to show the unrestrained progress of unemployment among the middle classes in Bengal. Anyone who has a petty billet at his disposal knows how the least hint it will bring an army of applicants, all crowding and scrambling for the prize, and besieging his doors day and night. Has the citizen a right, it may be asked, against the State to a guarantee of good and regular emploment, as well as of a decent living wage? Modern political philosophy says: "Yes." It is a fact that unemployment legislation is no mere ideal or fad, but a practical problem which modern democracies have taken up in the interests of peace and social order. Unemployment with its incidence of poverty is the greatest menace to society, and if social welfare is the ultimate object of Government, then it is as much the concern of the governing body as of the governed to make common cause with each other in fighting this economic plague. The ultimate object of Government, it is well known, is to remedy this evil by all legitimate means, and the stupendous efforts which are being made in England and other countries to combat this ever-growing

menace are an object-lesson to a truly national Government existing not only for law and order but for the real welfare of the community. The resolution, which I have moved, does not suggest any cut and dried scheme; what I have suggested is the safest and easiest line of approaching the problem of middle class unemployment in Bengal. We plead we do not know the causes full well, nor can we suggest measures of relief. It is for specialists and experts to explore the question in all its bearings, just as it is for statesmen to devise means and measures. Before you proceed to attack this problem, it is well to be equipped with a clear and thorough knowledge of its strength and intensity, cause and effect. I know, just as others do, the organic and glaring defects in the present system of education, with its narrow specialism, its literary and unpractical turn. It is an education which is wasteful of national energy, barren of result, incomplete in range and character, and unproductive in the business of life. I know that all this is to a great extent responsible for the prevalence of unemployment among the educated classes. It is obvious that a radical reform of the educational system must necessarily form the main plank in any scheme of operation. The opening up of new channels of employment, the development and expansion of trade, commerce, and manufacture, all this will inevitably lead to the reduction of the volume of unemployment, and the relief of the distress and demoralisation attendant thereon. These are self-evident truths. None the less we want more light, clearer knowledge such as only experts and economists can give us. This is why I press for the appointment of a committee as a preparatory step, and this is a very modest and reasonable demand. Let officials and non-officials combine and let a thorough sifting inquiry be made into the matter; let the committee examine witnesses who may offer themselves to give evidence, as has been done in Fiscal Commission, the Education Commission and similar other commissions.

I hope that Government will take up this question in the right spirit, with a full comprehension of the present crisis and a sincere heart to find a solution and adopt it. I do not desire to further dilate on the subject. I have reason to believe that this resolution will receive the sympathetic consideration of Government; my confidence is strengthened by the weighty pronouncement of His Excellency the Governor that material improvement and prosperity can alone remove the seed of discontent in this country.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I heartily support the resolution. The question is not a new one. I suppose Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur suggested the appointment of a committee to formulate schemes for taking steps for imparting vocational education. I do not know whether the committee has been really appointed or whether the work has been taken in hand; but so far as I remember, the matter was moved in this Council and it was accepted by Government. In fact the thing which is aimed at in this resolution is the work

of the nation-building departments. Though my friend, the mover of the resolution, is rather vague, it is quite clear that if we are to do anything in the way of providing work for the rising generation or rather for the educated middle class who are now in search of some sort of employment for earning a decent livelihood, special arrangement should be made for imparting vocational education to our rising generation, so that they may get work when they leave their schools and colleges and earn their livelihood. Steps should also be taken for the development of industry and agriculture. By agricultural undertaking, one can expect to earn his living. There is the Department of Agriculture and there are some experimental farms, but very little is done in the way of education either for the cultivators or men having taste for agriculture. What I mean to say is this that arrangements should be made for conducting some, not only experimental, but also, demonstration farms by which it can be shown that by taking to agriculture —say with one hundred acres of land or even with a lesser area of land— one can expect to do something for his family. In other countries, agriculture has made much progress, but in this country though Government have been spending a good deal of money for some years, no real improvement has been made. Industrial development ought to be also taken in hand. I think that some amount of money should be set apart for subsidising the struggling industries of the province. There is the Director of Industries and if some money is set apart to subsidise industries in the beginning wherever necessary or to help the promoters to secure money at a cheap rate, I think much good can be done for promoting the industries in this way. My friend has said, "let there be a commission and let there be schemes prepared," but I think that now that education, industry and agriculture are transferred subjects there can be no excuse that we are dependent upon Government. Under the bureaucratic Government we could only advise here and there and nothing more; but now I think the members of this Council should suggest some measures to the Ministers who are keen about these things, so that gradual steps may be taken in the matter. I do not like that the question should be deferred in the way suggested in the resolution. The mover has suggested that there should be a scheme prepared for imparting vocational education. In that way we can make but little progress; but if we simply refer the question to be formulated, it will take years and years. I like that something real should be done as early as possible. It is therefore high time that practical steps should be taken. The question of financial difficulty has to a certain extent been solved and the Ministers can now take steps. We can advise them and if the transferred departments are properly conducted, we can expect them to do something substantial in this direction. With these words, I desire to record my approval of the idea and support the motion; but I say that early practical steps should be taken instead of deferring the solution to future generation.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: I move, by way of amendment, that in this resolution—

(*i*) after the word "experts" the words "not exceeding five in number," be inserted;

(*ii*) before the word "unemployment" where it first occurs the words "poverty and " be inserted; and

(*iii*) for the words from "caused thereby, and that . . . referred to" the words "caused by poverty and unemployment" be substituted.

On a previous occasion, when Babu Amulya Dhone Addy moved the resolution for removing the restriction on the export of rice, my friend Maulvi Abdul Jubbar Pahlowan, who had given notice of a similar resolution, not only withdrew his resolution but also opposed the resolution of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy. I am in the same predicament to-day. I regret I am not in a position to support the resolution of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur and although I came here for the purpose of blessing him, I am afraid I have to start by cursing him. I fully realise, after listening to the speech of the Rai Bahadur, that the proposal is eminently impracticable. The problem of poverty is a world-problem. I do not for one moment say that the picture which he has drawn is at all overdrawn: but I do venture to say, without fear of contradiction, that I have no faith in any committee in a matter of this kind. I do not expect that any tangible results would follow the appointment of a committee for going into such a large matter. I cannot understand why our young people flock to schools and colleges for general education instead of devoting themselves to business, agriculture and industry ("Hear, hear"). The salvation of our country, I am convinced more than ever, depends upon the regeneration of our industries. Lord Hardinge, in a Despatch submitted to the Secretary of State in 1915, was pleased to observe that the question of unemployment, the question of poverty, is a large question and that its solution depended upon the establishment of the manufacturing power of India. The solution of the problem of poverty is dependent upon the question of building up the manufacturing power—a power which we once possessed but which we have now lost through causes well known to many of us. It will perhaps be said that this is the result which has been brought about by foreign competition, but at the same time we cannot be oblivious of the fact that we have done nothing to assert our own rights in the domain of commerce and in the field of industries ("Hear, hear"). We ought to be self-reliant. Can you expect the Government to provide for you appointments while your Universities are turning out graduates and undergraduates not by hundreds but by hundreds of thousands every year? I therefore say that nothing will come out of the appointment of a committee. We ought to be self-reliant; we ought to devote ourselves to agriculture, industry and

commerce. There is the question of the spinning wheel, there are some people who might be inclined to view it with suspicion, merely because that is a matter which has emanated from Mr. Gandhi; but is that the reason that it should be discarded by our country? There was a time when India used to produce her own yarn and her own textile fabrics by means of hand looms only which gave employment not to hundreds but to millions; I must frankly confess that I cannot support the demand for the appointment of a Committee. The Industrial Commission was appointed to inquire into the question of the development of industries, and just fancy the cost which was incurred in that connection. We have now the recommendations of that Commission before us. If my friend, the Rai Bahadur, will care to look into the recommendations of that Commission, I believe he will be convinced that there is absolutely no need for pressing a resolution of this kind before this Council.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Any resolution which aims at dealing squarely and definitely with the problem of unemployment should have the support of all reasonable men. But I cannot understand how the appointment of a committee will solve this problem. Moreover, the resolution that is before us is as portentous as it is vague. It shows that the mover has no clear idea of the matter. In the first place, he recommends or rather he wants the Council to recommend that experts be appointed not only to formulate the programme of work but also to study, investigate and report. I am not sure whether one of the objects of this resolution is to find employment for the unemployed or for the experts. Then, it is said that the experts are to formulate a programme of work on such lines as may facilitate the active co-operation of the Government and the public in combating the evils of unemployment. This is altogether unintelligible—a programme of work on such lines as may facilitate the co-operation of the Government and of the public? Well, the Government is aware of this serious problem; the public are also aware of it; but how experts can come in between them and formulate a programme of work which will secure or rather compel their co-operation, I, for one, cannot understand. Then, the mover desired that the experts, should suggest not only remedial but preventive measures also. How experts can suggest preventive measures, I cannot understand. Remedial measures they can suggest, but how can they make effective suggestions as regards preventing unemployment? For instance, it has been observed by many eminent men that the Bengalis have a liking for general education and that they do not easily take to vocational or technical education. Now, if they have a particular liking for legal or general education, what preventive measures can the Government take in that direction? If the Law College deludes many young people, is it the idea of the mover that Government should take preventive

measures by abolishing the Law College? Then, what puzzles me also is this, *viz.*, even if the experts are able to suggest some lines and the Government adopt those lines, how can the people be made to co-operate with the Government in combating the evils of unemployment on those lines? The public may have altogether different views. Some representatives of the public may have one idea and they may co-operate with the Government from one point of view; but can any representative of the public, simply by co-operating with the Government, bring about a change in the temperament and the ways of the people? Of course, had proposals been made to open vocational lines of study, or to provide more facilities for industrial training or new branches of commercial education, such definite proposals could be understood and any reasonable man could be asked to support them. But this proposal, which is so vague, cannot claim to have the support of any practical mind.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: I certainly agree with Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur that the question of unemployment is a very very, serious one not only here but all the world over, and specially after the war, the question of unemployment has become too complicated and so serious that it is taxing the brains of the best men, the best politicians and the best financiers to devise means, but at the same time I must admit that the solution suggested by the mover, namely, the appointment of a Committee to devise means, will only remain a sort of paper-wish which will have no chance of being carried out. Well, I think, that my friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, ought to realise the business aspect of this question of unemployment and that is the question of supply and demand. The supply of cheap clerks, the supply of cheap graduates, the supply of so-called *bhadralog* educated men has gone much more beyond than there is a demand for them, and yet the members come every day to this Council and ask for retrenchment of this or that department which means loss of employment to so many *bhadralogs* and which accentuates the question of unemployment. Some hon'ble members moved for the abolition of the Agricultural department, some moved for the abolition of the Fisheries Department, some for the Industries Department, but these suggestions seem to be detrimental, as hundreds will be driven out of employment and they will fill the city market. I have had some sad experience of this question of unemployment. I meet people daily who are seeking employment everywhere, who have sold everything they had in their own homes, and who have even pledged the ornaments of their female members and borrowed money on the off-chance of getting some employment. They are driven from pillar to post and from post to pillar. Only day before yesterday one promising young man came to me and said that he was on the point of committing suicide as he could not get any job. What is the reason for this? The reason is, as I have said,

that the supply of *bhadralog* educated men has gone much more beyond than there is a market for it. But the chief reason, it seems to me, is the indefinite manufacture of graduates in the factory of the Calcutta University. There you should restrict and there you should take steps whereby the outturn of the university may be decreased. Let us have more quality instead of quantity. Let us have a little improvement in the quality of the graduates. As a matter of fact, I think there are about 6,000 graduates who are unemployed and who cannot get work. They are competing with matriculates and non-matriculates or even those with minor class or *chatrabirti* class qualification for jobs here, there and everywhere. But what is the solution? The only solution is to start primary education and to find scope for these 6,000 graduates. Let us find the money for introducing elementary education and that will find the employment for all graduates who are competing with less qualified candidates. Sir, we have read the report of the Industrial Commission in which there are very clear suggestions as to how to establish new industries on new methods whereby the manufacture of the country can be improved. We have now the transferred Industries Department working under our Hon'ble Minister the Nawab Sahib. The department is busy with the preparation of schemes; we must have schemes first and then the schemes will materialise and we shall have some scope for finding employment when the scheme is accepted, but some of us want to abolish the Industries Department or other department, not knowing of the schemes that are being prepared, and if these departments are abolished, we will never solve the question of unemployment.

Babu DEVI PROSAD KHAITAN: I move, by way of amendment, that in the resolution of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur—

(*i*) the words " remedial and preventive " be deleted;

(*ii*) or in the alternative, if (*i*) be not carried, the word " constructive " be inserted between the words " such " and " remedial ";

(*iii*) after the words " caused thereby " the words " as well as to organise the capital resources and to help the growth of industries in the province," be inserted; and

(*iv*) for the words " in combating the evils of unemployment in the community referred to " the words " to achieve the said ends " be substituted.

The reasons which have impelled me to move this amendment are clear from the wording of the amendment itself. The question of unemployment that has been brought to the fore by my friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur is certainly a matter of great distress in the province. The problem of unemployment cannot, however, be solved merely by means of an inquiry into this matter and cannot be expected

to be solved by the creation of posts either under the Government or under the municipalities or under the district boards or such other authorities. The real difficulty in the province is that our province is backward in industrial matters. It is only by means of industries that a province can grow rich. There may be large factories or small factories or cottage industries, but it is merely when the people in the province take an increasing share in the manufacture of raw materials into finished products that the wealth of the province can be increased and the problem of unemployment can be really solved. It is a matter of common knowledge that our country has got an abundance of raw materials which, in the absence of manufactories in the country itself, has got to be shipped abroad and we receive the finished products from abroad. How far the question of tariff affects this matter is being investigated into by the Indian Fiscal Commission. The railway rates, as has been reported upon by the Indian Industrial Commission, favour the export of raw materials and the import of finished products into the country and place the centres of industries at a disadvantage. In these circumstances, indigenous industries have not been thriving in the country in the same proportion as they should have done. Moreover, the capital not only of this province but of the other provinces in India is under the control of small capitalists, and small capitalists cannot be expected to start their own manufacturing industries by the erection and establishment of prime-movers, each of which costs not less than a lakh of rupees. It is a matter of common experience that small capitalists who can employ Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000 are eager, if they can, to establish industries in their homes, if cheap power can be suuplied to them. These are matters which should be very carefully inquired into. The supply of cheap power, the supply of cheap transport facilities and other facilities are necessary in order that industries may be established to a greater extent in the province. If the whole of the cotton that is available in the country can be manufactured, India would become richer every year to the extent of sixty or seventy crores of rupees. These are the matters which have got to be very carefully inquired into. But while supporting the resolution which has been moved by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, I am moving this amendment in order that these necessaries may not be excluded from the inquiry under the resolution that has been moved, but that the whole thing may be carefully inquired into and the whole solution of the problem of establishment of industries can also be gone into in order to enrich the province, to relieve the question of unemployment which is so very distressing and which is really the root cause of all political agitations that are creating so much ferment in the country.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am glad that Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur has brought this question before this House. It is a question of great economic and also social importance. This is a matter in which I have worked and thought all my life and

it goes to my heart that my unfortunate class are the principal sufferers and it is for them that my friend has moved this motion. We, Brahmins, Kaisthas and Baidyas, for a hundred generations have done nothing but employed ourselves in reading and writing and in accountancy. We were employed in the learned professions under the Hindu régime, under the Muhammadan régime and also under the British régime. Caste favoured us. We have not been untrue to our past intellectual accomplishments. We have been in the very vanguard of intellectual advancement of this country and we have got our graduates by tens of thousands, but how can we find employment for so many, and the worst of it is this. The other classes, the trading class, the agricultural class and other classes under the fair and impartial régime of the British Government have come to the colleges and become our competitors, and thus it is that we are going back: we cannot get proper employment now. If my friends of the other castes——

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I rise to a point of order? I do not think it is proper to refer to castes and all that. Why cannot he discuss this without referring to castes?

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: If we had the old system, the old social system, among us, then we would have been much better off, but the old social system must crumble down before the democratic ideas of the British régime, and thus it is that we are going down. It has been very justly said that industry, agriculture, and commerce are more important than even education, and why should not people employ themselves in industry, agriculture and commerce? Why should everybody go to the colleges? Why should the sons of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur compete with my poor sickly boys there and for Government nomination for offices? The Marwari gentlemen of little education are the rulers of Calcutta to-day, and I am sure that my friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur may also be a ruler among men, a prince among merchants and traders, but let him not compete with us in the matter of employment requiring education. That is a great difficulty in our way and I mean no offence to him; let him impartially consider this matter and let the lower castes and classes be like the Marwaris and let them remember that the main interest of the country remains in agriculture, trade, commerce and industry, and not in the colleges, schools and law classes and Government service. Therefore, I submit that this matter is not only a great economic question but a great social question and as such it should be considered.

Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL Khan Bahadur: I heartily thank my friend Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur for moving this most important resolution which I whole-heartedly support and which I doubt not will be readily accepted by both the official and the non-official members of this Council. Unemployment, whether we consider the evils

arising out of it, the complexity of its causes, or the difficulty of finding out effective remedies, is one of the gravest problems the Government have to solve. " A man willing and unable to find work " said Thomas Carlyle " is perhaps, the saddest sight that fortune's inequality exhibits under the sun " and yet in Bengal " Fortune's inequality " exhibits under the sun every morning hundreds and thousands of these saddest sights and they are, alas! but the commonest sights in Bengal—and unhappily their number is daily fast increasing. Youths —pale and haggard, and prematurely sick of life for want of work—going about begging recommendation letters and testimonials from school masters and college lecturers, from barristers and councillors, from magistrates and commissioners are but a familiar, ah! painfully too familiar, sight in Bengal.

Middle class men form, so to say, the marrow and bone of the Bengali community and they are truly the connecting link between the Government and the people. They are truly the *intelligensia* of Bengal, and although the number of middle-class people in the employ of the Government is infinitely much smaller than it ought to be, those of them who are in it are but the stout and solid pillars upon which the edifice of Government stands, and yet the Government have not always recognised and safe-guarded their interests. The Government have not infrequently displayed a tendency towards recruiting men from the wealthier classes for services under it, and we know that not a few of our educated young men have been demoralised by the nomination system. Whether a law-abiding and loyal citizen has a right to demand work of a State I shall not discuss; neither would it come properly within my scope. But the fact is there, staring us in the face,—the fact that there are thousands of middle class men, sitting unemployed and making the economic distress through which we are just now passing more and more acute. The education that has so long been imparted to the youths of Bengal by the Calcutta University has signally failed to solve their bread-problem, " the problem of all problems." The University has so long produced only men fit for the Bar (which is already overcrowded) or for the clerical service. Vocational education that teaches the art of winning bread has sadly been neglected. Young graduates and undergraduates cannot go in for business because of the want of proper commercial training and more particularly for want of capital. They cannot take to cultivation, as in Bengal there is a class of people whose avocation is cultivation and the *bhadralog.* have always been known to be fit more for intellectual work than for exclusively physical work. Again the *bhadralogs* have no land to till. They earn or hope to earn their livelihood by serving either in Government, Merchants' offices, or in institutions other than these. I know of many educated young men who have gathered under the banner of non-co-operation because the Government under which they live could not or did not give them any employment! And non-co-operation can

boast of having in its fold many of our brightest and best youths. Unless and until Government finds effective remedies to combat the evils due to unemployment, the situation will become graver and graver and the feeling of discontent will be more and more acute.

The value of a committee to probe deep into the unemployment question and to suggest remedial measures cannot be overestimated. I should think the appointment of such a committee has long been overdue. I sincerely hope that not a single dissenting voice will be heard this afternoon and that both the officials and non-officials will co-operate with one other in choosing the fittest men for the committee. May I suggest that some of the members here who are themselves middle-class men be appointed to this committee and that a non-official majority be maintained so that this committee may command the respect and confidence of the public. Let men representing all interests and shades of opinion in the province be selected for the purpose. I humbly request my brother-councillors to unanimously accept this resolution and at the same time exhort the Government to lose no time in appointing this committee, for delay may be dangerous. With these words, Sir, I conclude and I assure this House once more that this resolution has my frankest and whole-hearted support.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: This resolution of the mover, my esteemed friend, Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, demands that there should be a committee appointed for the purpose of studying, investigating and reporting on the problem of unemployment of the educated middle class in Bengal. The resolution in my humble opinion is a very elastic one. This resolution has been somewhat modified by two other movers and the suggestions which they have made may command the attention of the Council. It seems to me that the best remedy is not a report of a committee but it lies with the middle classes of Bengal. If the vocational education, industrial and commercial education are taken up in right earnest by the middle class people the whole problem will be solved. Let us take a practical view of the matter: let us not be satisfied with a report of a committee. That is the view I take, and the Rai Bahadur will be pleased to see that if vocational education, industrial and commercial education and not the education of *kiranees* and clerks are taken up by the people, he will not have to trouble the Council by coming forward with a resolution like this.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I congratulate my learned colleague Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur for bringing this resolution before the Council in order to enable us to have an opportunity of discussing a very important question which affects the interest of this province as well as of the whole of India. To everybody who has taken any pains to observe the real cause of the unrest in this country, it is apparent

that the real cause which has brought about this disaffection and which is mainly responsible for the political unrest is the great economic distress, and to all who have observed the habits of the people of this province, the real needs and interests of the people of this province and also the intelligence of the people of this province—to all of them it is evident that it is not the poor agriculturists who till the soil of the province or of the country that this agitation is due. The agitation is due to the middle classes, and that is so because they are in a sense starving. I have heard students speaking to their parents recently in connection with the non-co-operation movement boycotting schools and colleges—" Well, father, you ask me to join the school, to join the college. Supposing I pass the B.A., what do I get for that? I do not get even my bare maintenance." That is the question which has often been put by many of the students either of schools or college. So far as Government officers, loyal subjects, are concerned, they have often said—" My son is going to join the non-co-operation movement." I asked, " Why? You are a Government officer." The reply was—" My son has passed the B.A. examination, but unfortunately he cannot get a job on Rs. 30." These are the real sources of trouble which are agitating the minds of the young as well as of the old. To me it seems that there is now absolute necessity for taking up this question very earnestly, so that the problem of the employment of the middle classes may be seriously considered and the cause of real dissatisfaction may vanish. Whatever may be the present superficial cause, the permanent and perennial sources of unrest lie there, and these sources must be removed. There seems to be an apprehension in some quarters that committees are quite useless, that committees often sit, they waste money and take time to submit reports and so they are quite useless. But to me it seems that to tackle a problem like this, really a committee is necessary where all possible suggestions can be considered. To some it may appear that a particular scheme should be adopted either as regards industrial or as regards agricultural or as regards vocational education, so that the problem of the unemployment of the middle classes may to a certain extent be tackled. To others, it may seem that certain other sources must be tapped in order that this question may be solved to a certain extent. All these various aspects, all these various suggestions, all these various constructive programmes, all these various policies which may be even suggested in regard to a particular scheme may be considered by the committee and then the Council may be in a position to decide what particular courses should be taken in order to give effect to the principle of this resolution. With these observations, I fully support the resolution of Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I must confess that I do not understand what is meant by this resolution. It is a very big resolution, the former portion has very little bearing on the latter. If it is

meant that there is unemployment of the educated middle class people of Bengal, I do not know where all the appointments under Government go to except to our own educated young men, and I am sure the mover does not mean that other people are coming and getting these appointments. I fail to understand what a committee will do in regard to the unemployment of the educated middle class. Your people ought to look to vocational education. They ought to change their frame of mind. The constant cry of *nakri, nakri, nakri* will not do. There are people who are coming out from England and making money here and they do not look to *nakri*. People from Rajputana are coming here and making money, but you always want *nakri*. You become glorified clerks. That is your persistent policy. Why are you so anxious to have service? Look at those people who come from outside and make all the money they can and then go away. They do not care for *nakri*. There is no desire to see how these people make money, there is no desire to see how young men come out from England and under extreme difficulties learn business here and make themselves millionaires. But the question with you is employment—that is employment under Government. That old idea must be given up. You must be prepared to learn all these before you can make yourselves useful to the community. If we want to live and exist, we must take up these problems, otherwise if we have too much of *nakri*, as we have had for generations, that will not improve our lot. From this point of view the resolution is not only useless but worse than useless.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: I have every sympathy with the resolution moved by Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur, but I am sorry to say that when a few days ago I brought forward a somewhat similar resolution for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the present economic distress of the poor people of Bengal, I got no support and consequently the resolution was not accepted by Government. But now that it is a question of the middle class people, the resolution has received considerable support. Whenever it is the case of the poorer classes, it is neglected by the Government as well as by the Councillors.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: Government recognise that the existence of unemployment among the middle classes is a serious problem. The matter was investigated in detail by the Districts Administration Committee in 1913-14, and I would refer any member who wishes to have full information on the subject to chapters 9 and 10 of that Committee's report. The problem of how to deal with middle class unemployment received anxious consideration from Government and the conclusion to which they came was that the only way of dealing with it was by opening up new fields of employment for the educated middle classes. In this direction Government have not been idle. I may point first to the

establishment of the Department of Industries and the appointment of a permanent Director. The main object of this measure is to promote existing industries and to develop new ones with a view to providing industrial employment. At the same time it is necessary to train candidates for employment in the lines which they wish to take up. With this object Government are proceeding with the schemes for the establishment of technical schools for the training of apprentices at Kanchrapara and in Calcutta. At Kanchrapara certain buildings have been already constructed and others will be provided as soon as possible. In the meantime, instruction has been started on a modest scale pending the introduction of the whole scheme. In Calcutta, we have acquired a site for the technical school, and building operations will commence as soon as funds are available. We also hope shortly to undertake the reorganisation of the Commercial Institute. I need only refer to the good work that is being done by the Serampore Weaving Institute and the Survey School at Comilla. The Calcutta Research Tannery again is not merely a research institute but is used for the training of apprentices in the leather industry, and 16 apprentices are at present receiving instruction there. Then as regards agriculture, we have opened in the course of the last few weeks, two secondary agricultural schools, one at Dacca and the other at Chinsura. These schools were originally established as middle vernacular agricultural schools but it was found that they did not altogether serve their purpose, and they are, therefore, being converted into secondary schools. For higher agricultural education we have the scheme for an Agricultural Institute at Dacca. Land has been acquired but operations have had to be suspended owing to the want of funds; when money is again available, building will commence at once. Government have, therefore, adopted a definite policy for dealing with the problem of unemployment among the middle classes. They are seeking to open new fields for employment, and with this object in view they are spending such funds as become available in spreading opportunities for technical, industrial and agricultural education. They are at present seriously hampered by want of money, but when funds are available they will at once proceed with the schemes which they have already taken in hand. In these circumstances, I think that the appointment of a committee, as suggested by the mover, is not likely at present to serve any practical purpose. Government have adopted a policy which they believe to be sound and I do not doubt that the Council will share this belief. They have prepared schemes to give effect to that policy, and all that is required is money to carry out these schemes.

If, however, the Council feel that the urgency of the problem demands a fresh investigation, and that a committee of the kind suggested is likely to assist by indicating fresh lines of action, I am prepared to accept their recommendation for its appointment. I therefore leave the matter to the non-official members of the Council, but I would warn

them that the committee is not likely to be able to suggest any new measures of practical value.

Babu DEVI PROSAD KHAITAN: Have I any right of reply? I want to say a few words.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: No, you cannot.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I may state at once that I accept the amendments suggested by Babu Devi Prosad Khaitan. He wants to insert the word "constructive" between the words "such" and "remedial" in the fifth line of my resolution. Then in the next line he has suggested that after the words "caused thereby" the words "as well as to organise the capital resources and to help the growth of industries in the province" be inserted, and in the last line he wants to insert the words "to achieve the said ends" for the words "in combating the evils of unemployment in the community referred to." I accept these amendments. In the first place I want to explain that this idea of appointing a committee is not a new one which I claim as my own. This is an idea which has been talked about for some time not only in this Council but outside it, and having regard to the volume of discontent which prevails on account of a large and increasing army of unemployed young men in this country, and having regard to the fact that a number of my countrymen are also devoting much time and attention to this most difficult problem, I thought that the time had arrived to ask the Government to appoint a committee in order to receive constructive suggestions from the public on the subject and to be enlightened with views which may be offered from different quarters and to so shape its policy and action as to alleviate or mitigate, as far as possible, the evils of unemployment. To my mind it seems rather surprising that Babu Surendra Nath Mallik, who was not present when I delivered my speech, thinks that I am harping on an inquiry for *nakri* and with his inimitable gibes and taunts, with which we are all familiar, he said that all I want is *nakri*, *nakri*, *nakri*, and that I want more Government employments and employments in mercantile offices for my countrymen. But if my friend had heard my speech, he would have seen that I was as far away from the question of *nakri*, or rather slavery, as the poles asunder. I never said or suggested that larger openings should be made in Government offices or mercantile firms for my countrymen to be employed as slaves and drudgers from early morning till midnight. That is not my point. Therefore, my friend was not quite right in assuming what I did not say in the course of my observations in introducing this motion.

In this matter it may be said that my resolution is in certain respects defective. I quite admit that it is capable of improvement. Certain improvements have been suggested by my friend Mr. Khaitan

who himself is a business man and has by cogent reasons himself urged the necessity for the appointment of such a committee, and I believe that I will do well in accepting his suggestion. The House seems to be animated by the same desire which is to combat the evils of unemployment, and to mitigate the evils from which our countrymen now suffer. What I think and my friend, who was not given any opportunity of speaking, prompts me to say is this: that it is not merely vocational education in schools and colleges but something more direct, more practical, and more constructive that is required and facilities in the way of development of industries and commerce are needed. It is impossible for me to lay before the House any constructive scheme. I have simply voiced the opinion of my countrymen as far as I can gather from outside. Men like Captain Petavel, Sir P. C. Ray and my friend, Babu Devi Prosad Khaitan himself have devoted long years to the study of this subject. I think it would be of great use if Government could get their experiences in a crystallized form. In that view I have moved my motion. You all admit that the real cause of discontentment is unemployment. You may make our young men, thousands of matriculates and others, who are dying of hunger and starvation, work for their living and make them live. They are now swelling the ranks of the discontented. That is the reason for the incessant cry for national government. Sir, I do not say that we, the members of the Council, are the quintessence of human wisdom. The men outside who have considered the question should also be consulted if we are to tackle the problem aright. As the Hon'ble Minister has said we have opened agricultural schools but no students are forthcoming——

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I did not say that. What I said was that we had to refuse admission to students.

Rai RADHA CHARAN PAL Bahadur: I am sorry. It will be seen, therefore, that if the schools are simply meant for imparting agricultural education it will no doubt do a certain amount of good, but it will not help to grapple with the present question of unemployment. So many of our educated young men going out from colleges seek employment and do not find any. This question cannot be grappled merely by opening agricultural schools, but as Mr. Khaitan has stated if a committee is appointed it might show us the way how to organise the capital resources of the country and help in the growth of industry and thus find a solution of the problem. I think much practical result will ensue by the appointment of such a committee because a representative committee alone will be able to furnish Government with constructive suggestions to carry on a regular programme for the relief of the unemployed.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: May I rise to a point of order as I understand that Rai Radha Charan Pal Bahadur did not formally accept Mr. Khaitan's amendment, but it was only in the course of his speech that the Hon'ble Member said that he accepted the amendment? I should like to know what is the position. Has the amendment been accepted or the original motion?

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I have not accepted the resolution. I have left it to the vote of the non-official members of the Council.

The Council having accepted the amendment of Babu Devi Prosad Khaitan, the following amended motion was then put and agreed to:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a mixed committee of official and non-official experts be appointed to study, investigate, and report upon the problem of unemployment of the educated middle class in Bengal, as well as to suggest such constructive remedial and preventive measures as may appear to be necessary in order to relieve the gravity of the situation caused thereby as well as to organise the capital resources and to help the growth of industries in the province, and that the said committee be specially directed to formulate a programme of work on such lines as may facilitate the active co-operation of the Government and the public to achieve the said ends."

Adjournment.

After the interval for prayer, the Council was adjourned for want of a quorum to Friday, the 31st March, 1922, at 3 P.M. at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 31st March, 1922, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy-President in the Chair, the Hon'ble the four Members of the Executive Council, the Hon'ble the three Ministers, and 99 nominated and elected members.

Starred Question

(to which oral answer was given).

Anti-malarial operations.

***XXXVIII. Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the anti-malarial operations undertaken in Bengal;

(*ii*) the places where these have been started; and

(*iii*) when they were started?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of starting anti-malarial operations immediately in places where they have not already been started?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to make a statement as to the number of deaths that have resulted from malaria in the district of Jessore during the last three years?

(*d*) Is there any provision in the Budget for the next year (1922-23), for starting anti-malarial operations?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) The following projects have been undertaken in Bengal with a view to remedy malaria:—

1. An experimental scheme in Jalpaiguri district at Meenglas Tea Estate, commenced in 1916-17.

2. An experimental scheme in Burdwan district at Singaran-Toposi Collieries near Raneegunge, commenced in 1916-17.

3. An experimental scheme near Burdwan town in the villages of Banka-Valley, commenced in 1916-17.

4. A flood-flush drainage scheme in Murshidabad district in Jangipur Municipality, commenced in 1916-17.

5. A flood-flush scheme in Mymensingh district at Tangail, commenced in 1916-17.

6. A flood-flush scheme in 24-Parganas district of Budge-Budge, commenced in 1919-20.

7. A special anti-malarial measure of quinine distribution at Birnagar Municipality in Nadia district, commenced in 1918.

In the case of No. 6 (Budge-Budge) the measure is preventive rather than ameliorative, because there is at present little malaria in Budge-Budge Municipality.

The great influenza epidemic which began in June, 1918, and continued its ravages through 1919, and 1920 has naturally vitiated the results obtained. In spite of this there was an appreciable effect in Birnagar and some slight improvement elsewhere. The following schemes have been begun or carried out by the Irrigation Department, but the Director of Public Health is not yet able to gauge the effect, *viz*:—

(1) Banka in Burdwan—Completed.

(2) Nowi Sunthi in 24-Parganas—Under construction. Started in 1919-20.

(3) Amta in Howrah—Under construction. Started in 1919-20.

(4) Arul Bhil in Jessore—Under construction. Started in 1918-19.

(5) Jaboona in Jessore, Nadia and 24-Parganas—Under construction. Started in 1919-20.

(*b*) Government expect to initiate the important Bhairab scheme this year and are undertaking anti-malarial investigations in other districts; it is impossible to undertake work of this kind immediately in all parts of Bengal as these schemes require to be most carefully examined and prepared.

(*c*) Recently several members of the Council asked for similar information but they were told that deaths from malaria are not recorded separately. In the district of Jessore there were 43,933, 44,944 and 42,507 deaths from fever during the years 1918, 1919 and 1920, respectively.

(*d*) Proposals for anti-malarial schemes are being included in the supplementary Budget.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Urinal for female passengers at Barisal steamer station.

287. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) With reference to the answer given to my unstarred question No. 160 asked at the meeting of the

20th February, 1922, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Marine Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he is aware that the steamers do not always arrive at Barisal in time and that the passengers have got to wait there for some time for other steamers; and

(*ii*) that the steamers do not always remain in the ghât but go to the other side of the river for coal and do not come back to the station till all other steamers have departed?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of asking the steamer company to construct a urinal at the station for use by the female passengers?

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Government have no information. The Steamer Companies state that coaling is not permitted to interfere with connections for through booked passengers.

(*b*) No.

Ferry platforms in the Basirhat subdivision.

288. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that for some time past the 24-Parganas District Board authorities have failed to repair the ferry platforms in the Basirhat subdivision?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to ascertain why they are not doing so?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the said District Board authorities are not taking any steps to arrange for the repairs mentioned above in spite of the representation made to them by one of the members of the District Board that the ferry platforms in certain parts of the Basirhat subdivision were in a dangerous condition?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) During the current year five ferry platforms have been reported to the District Board as requiring repairs, two reports being of recent date.

(*b*) Under the terms of the leases of the ferries, the lessees are liable to provide ferry platforms and to keep them in order. It was found on inquiry by the Chairman that, owing to loss of income, the lessees could not reasonably be required to carry out their obligations and, in order to meet the popular demand, the District Board decided to undertake the repairs at the cost of the Board. The work is now in hand.

(*c*) The Chairman reports that it is not a fact.

Filtered water-supply to the riparian municipalities.

289. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the names of the riparian municipalities on the banks of the Hooghly that have not as yet got a filtered water-supply?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what arrangements, if any, are being made to provide a filtered water-supply and what help, if any, do the Government contemplate giving to them?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Kamarhati, Panihati, Khardah, Garulia, North Barrackpore and Halisahar municipalities on the east bank and Bally, Kotrung, Rishra-Konnagore, Baidyabati, Champdany, Bhadreswar and Bansberia municipalities on the west bank.

(*b*) Government have appointed a committee to investigate the problem of the water-supply of the towns on the east bank and their report is now awaited; several projects have been prepared for the municipalities on the west bank which have hitherto been held up for want of funds, but which will be considered in connection with the programme of water-works construction now under consideration. Until the schemes are prepared and submitted, Government are not in a position to say what financial assistance can be given to the municipalities.

Serampore Weaving School.

290. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement in regard to the Serampore Weaving School showing—

(*i*) the capital cost;

(*ii*) the recurring annual expenditure; and

(*iii*) the principle heads of such expenditure?

(*b*) Have the Government any programme for starting spinning and weaving schools in different districts or in the important centres of the cloth industry in Bengal?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) The Director of Industries has under consideration a programme for starting seven new weaving schools in suitable centres when funds are available.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 290, showing the capital cost, etc., of the Serampore Weaving Institute.

Capital cost—Rs. 20,613.

Recurring annual expenditure (average)—Rs. 32,232.

Principal heads of such expenditure—(1) Salaries of staff; (2) Scholarships; (3) Contingencies; (4) Travelling allowances; and (5) Rents and taxes.

Survey of malarious tract in Jessore.

291. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Sanitary Commissioner surveyed a few villages in the district of Jessore with reference to malaria?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names of the villages surveyed;

(*ii*) what report has been submitted; and

(*iii*) what action, if any, has been taken since then?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) (*i*) Noaldanga, Jhandia, Dogachia, Shajadal, Ashanagar, Begdanga, Monoharpur, Chandutia, Gobindopur, Arijpur, Shagorpur, Matbadi, Narangali, Silimpur, Bohirampur, Lanjani, Magoora, Alamnagarhat, Duttopara, Mahadebpur, Faridpur, Ichhapur, Shantoshnagar, Ashinagar, Lokhipur, Angerpara, Serampore, Halsa, Ghordaha, Faltadi, Mashrang, Burinda, Fulshora, Salna, Borokuli, Dashpakia, Darmagura, Baldebpara, Afra, Araedah, Shibnagar, Howlee, Dureli, Rangoli, Shuresharkati, Joyrampur, Bereli, Kinkola, Monoharpur No. 2, Gooripur, Hudafatapur, Jahangirpur, Jagannathpur, Gopinathpur, Jogahati, Chanda, Mathrapur, Kota, Borobadi, Shatpota, Modanpur, Dhantori, Pipragachia, Baganchai and Baguri.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) The Arul Bhil project is under execution, but several of the villages do not fall within the scope of any major anti-malarial scheme. It is desired to watch the results of the Arul Bhil project, but suggestions have been made to the District Board for carrying out minor measures which are at present necessary.

Statement of Mr. C. R. Das as to the legality of the judgment delivered in his case.

292. Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department been drawn

to a statement made by Mr. C. R. Das, questioning the legality of the judgment scrutinised by two Judges of the Calcutta High Court on the (Amendment) Act?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what action, if any, do the Government propose taking in the matter of the charges brought by Mr. Das?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the advisability of having the judgment scrutinised by two Judges of the Calcutta High Court on the allegations made by Mr. Das?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Department of Education and attached offices.

293. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement for the Department of Education and the offices of the—

(*1*) Director of Public Instruction,

(*2*) Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education, and

(*3*) Inspector-General of Registration showing—

(*i*) the number of Registrars and Personal Assistants;

(*ii*) the number of clerks;

(*iii*) the number of stenographers and typists; and

(*iv*) the number of menials with the establishment and contingency charges of the respective offices?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): Three statements A, B, and C are laid on the Library table.

Certificates under section 72D(2) of the Government of India Act.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr): I beg to lay on the table a certificate of His Excellency the Governor, under proviso (*b*) of section 72 D(*2*) of the Government of India Act, authorising, as a case of emergency, the expenditure of Rs. 3,368 incurred in making additions and alterations in the Central Lunatic Asylum at Berhampore for converting a portion of it into a female jail. This certificate is made in respect of a small item of expenditure in the Public Works Department. There is no intention of continuing the project as I said the other day, and this is the last certificate that we shall have to produce in respect of this scheme.

TEMPORARY JAIL FOR FEMALE PRISONERS, BERHAMPORE.

Under proviso (*b*) to section 72D (*2*) of the Government of India Act, I hereby authorise, as a case of emergency, the expenditure of Rs. 3,386 incurred in making certain additions and alterations in the Central Lunatic Asylum building at Berhampore for converting a portion of it into a female jail.

LYTTON,

Governor of Bengal.

The 29th March 1922.

Resolutions

(under the rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest).

Sheds for witnesses in Courts.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: I move "that this Council recommends to the Government that sheds be constructed attached to the courts of Bengal for waiting accommodation for witnesses and parties to suits."

In moving this resolution, I need not give a long explanation for its support. The very resolution explains the necessity for bringing it before the Council Every day the courts of Bengal are overcrowded by people who come there in connection with suits but, strange to say, there is no accommodation for parties and witnesses to suits; so they have generally to sit in the sunshine from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M and sometimes even up to 6 P.M., and the Council can well imagine what trouble they have to suffer. I ask the Council to think for a moment what becomes of the condition of the people when there is rain or any other change in the atmosphere. In 1913 or 1914, I cannot remember the year correctly, there was a very scorching heat for some days together, and I found some men die of sunstroke before the *Adalat* (Court) and this sight appealed to my heart then, and that has led me to bring this proposal forward, namely, to erect sheds for the convenience of witnesses and parties to suits.

With these remarks, I commend my proposal to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: As to the desirability of having sheds for witnesses, there cannot be much difference of opinion, although at one time it was thought that the ample shade of the banana tree was sufficient for the purpose. The question now is whether we are in command of sufficient funds to build sheds for witnesses wherever they are needed. In point of fact, there are some courts attached to which there are witness sheds, but we have not yet reached the stage when we could

provide sheds for all the courts. We have been endeavouring to do our best in the matter, the only difficulty in our way being the want of funds. If this Council is able to supply us with funds we would be able to build these sheds without difficulty. Of course, the Council knows that we are not flushed with money and there are many more urgent schemes to which the Council will give preference than witness sheds. This proposal may be carried out after the schemes to which preference is to be given are provided for and there is money left in our hands. We cannot, however, accept the resolution, as we cannot commit ourselves without being sure of funds.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: The reply of the Hon'ble Member for Government is not a satisfactory one. He says that for want of funds he cannot manage to construct sheds for witnesses and parties to suits. But look at the large amount of money these people pay; we get nearly 12 crores of rupees from these people for the expenses of the administration of justice. Are they not entitled to have a small expenditure for themselves? I do not think more than Rs. 2,00,000 or Rs. 3,00,000 will be needed to meet this demand.

The Hon'ble Member says that for want of funds, schemes to which the Council would give preference cannot be adopted; so how can this be taken up when there are not sufficient funds? I say that this is also not a subject to be neglected and it is of no less importance. However, I will leave it to the Council to think and consider what is more reasonable.

The motion was then put and lost.

Mufassal Jurors.

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA being absent Shah Syed Emdadul Haq moved the next motion in the following form:—

"This Council recommends to the Government (*i*) that the mufassal jurors be recruited, as far as possible, from among persons of social respectability and education; (*ii*) that they be given second, or intermediate class travelling allowance as the case may be, according to the Civil Service Regulations, and that similar allowances be given to European and Indian jurors; and (*iii*) that the choice of selection of jurors be not entirely left to the Police, the choice or the selection of some jurors being left to the union board, or the chaukidari panchayati committee."

The mover spoke in Bengali in support of the motion. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

At the outset I would like to say that it is the prevailing practice in the mufassal, that the jurors are paid at the rate of one rupee and upwards to rupees five per diem when called upon to sit for the hearing of a case. This range of payment rests with the discretion of the District Judges. Would it not have been better if the personalities and status of the jurors were considered? Would it not have been wise and just

if the jurors were given a second or an intermediate class travelling allowances instead as is in the Civil Service Regulations? For my own part I do not think it would stand as a bar in the way or it would in any way inconvenience the matter. I fear that one may rise and say that in adopting this principle, Government will have to face an extra expenditure. But it is not so. Those who frame such ideas are indeed misled. In adopting this principle of giving only travelling allowances to the jurors, I am sure, that Government will have not to pay a bit more than they do at present. It will never exceed the amount of the present expenditure. The fact being that most of the jurors are middle class men and thus there is nothing to fear of any surplus expenditure.

I am not in the least afraid here that the Hon'ble the Finance Member will find objection to this. No doubt our present financial position is deplorable and the unfortunate financial position has been like a millstone round our necks. It is therefore that I do not lay much stress nor do I press this point even though I do not consider that there will be an excess in expenditure in adopting the travelling allowance system for jurors.

But, with regard to clause (*ii*) of the motion No. 118A—the amended motion I mean—I desire to lay stress, and thus emphatically urge that the power of selection of some of the jurors be at least placed in the hands of the union boards and chaukidari panchayat committees. It is in no way wise and safe to leave the power of selection of these bodies of men solely with the police authorities. It is of course not necessary that it should be left alone with them. Practical experience shows that in the majority of cases, their selections have proved harmful to the public and are thus not always right. It would, therefore, apparently be better and evidently beneficial, if the selection of jurors were made by the union boards and chaukidari panchayat committees. I am personally acquainted with the facts that since the reformed constitution came into force in January, 1921, some similar powers have been taken away from the police authorities and are now entrusted to the union boards, etc. It is thus that I say with great emphasis, and move this motion with stress and importance putting weight on clause (*ii*) of the amended motion.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I associate myself with the resolution of Babu Surendra Narayan Sinha, as amended by Shah Syed Emdadul Haq. I impress upon the House the necessity of making some arrangements for the jurors. As we are all aware, the jurors are generally recruited from respectable persons, and they are entirely at the mercy of the presiding officer as regards their travelling and halting allowances, and in some cases their condition in regard to those things is precarious. They have often to suffer loss; they have to incur expenses from their own pockets in order to do service to the people. So rules should, I think, be framed in such a manner, that they may not be obliged to defray such cost from their own pockets. The

shabby manner in which they are treated by the presiding officers makes them try to avoid acting as jurors and to get their names struck off from the list. If, however, these rules are framed in such a way that the people may not suffer, then they would not do so.

There is another thing. At present the presiding officer cannot allow any cost to any juror who comes from within the limits of five miles of the court. This rule has been causing very great hardship. At present there is a case—a gang case—being held at the Pabna court—it is still pending—lasting for some months and many people from within the five-mile radius are acting as jurors in it, and their business is suffering to a great extent——

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. P. Duval): May I rise to a point of order? Is the member in order in referring to cases that are pending?

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I did not refer to the merits of the case pending at Pabna, but I simply referred to the case by way of illustrating the inconvenience felt by the jurors who got no allowance. The presiding officers are willing to give something to the jurors, but as the rules do not permit they cannot do so. My submission is that the rules should be revised in such a way as to enable the presiding officers to show some consideration for those gentlemen who come from within five miles of the court.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I desire to oppose the resolution as it stands after amendment on two grounds. So far as the second paragraph of the amendment at least is concerned, it refers to the procedure of preparing a list of jurors from which selections are made for the trial of particular cases. That procedure is provided for in the Criminal Procedure Code and that has to be followed by the District Magistrate and the District Judge in consultation with each other. No doubt, in practice, the District Judge sometimes delegates his powers to some of his subordinate officers or to the police to arrange the jurors. A list is first prepared, then notice is given to all jurors; sometimes public notice is given, so that they might put in their objections to the entry of their names in the list. So the new proposal is likely to clash with the provision of the law already existing, and I have great doubts whether that section of the Criminal Procedure Code can be affected at all by any resolution that we might pass in this Council. This disposes of the suggestion in paragraph 2 of Shah Sahib's amendment.

As to the first paragraph, it is the vexed question of travelling allowances. No doubt, there are concrete instances in which some people feel that they are sacrificing their time and money with no corresponding compensation. That is a hardship indeed, but it must be borne in mind that to serve the public is a right which we have fought for and got after a good deal of agitation, and I think we do not deserve that right if we

do not understand the value of trial by jury. For these reasons, I think nobody should be anxious for his travelling allowances and other things. Some amount, which is always reasonable, is allowed to gentlemen who come to serve as jurors from beyond the five-mile limits, and I do not know why the existing rules should be interfered with.

I oppose the amendment on these two grounds.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: As regards the question of selection of jurors, I do not think there is any real ground for complaint. The matter was brought before the Legislative Council on more than one occasion before, and the Government has been always alive to the fact that the selection of jurors ought to be made as carefully as possible, and only persons of certain social status, and none but persons of respectability should be selected. Instructions to that effect have been issued from time to time, and I think, as lately as last year, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Huq drew the attention of Government to the fact that in some cases selection of jurors was left to police officers. Government sent out a circular pointing out that it was not desirable that police officers should have anything to do with the selection of jurors, and since then, there has been no reason to apprehend that the practice complained of has been continued. We have received no complaint on this point since then, and we have not been able to find out that there has been really any departure from the rule laid down by Government. So far, therefore, as this matter is concerned, I think I have satisfied the House that there is no occasion for taking further action.

As regards the payment of travelling and other allowances to jurors, there is an important question of principle involved, as pointed out by Babu Annada Charan Dutta. This jury system has been copied from the English Law entirely, and there the idea of paying jurors is entirely unknown. It is considered to be the right of every citizen, on the one hand, to be associated with the trial of a fellow-citizen, while, on the other hand, the State regards it as a duty imposed on every citizen to serve on a jury. Besides if we were to introduce a system by which jurors are to be paid all the expenses that they might have incurred in coming to the Court, or whatever loss they might have suffered in their business, then I submit to the House that it would be difficult to carry on the jury system here. Those who are acquainted with the town of Calcutta, well know that men carrying on very large business, who earn large sums of money every day, are often called to serve as jurors, and if you were to compensate them, it would be a very expensive affair indeed. After having considered the matter fully, and after consulting the High Court, Government came to the conclusion that it may be desirable to make a small allowance not actually to compensate the jurors for loss of time, but something by way of subsistence during the time the trial takes place, and in order to meet some portion of the

travelling expenses. A modest sum ranging from Re. 1 to Rs. 5 is allowed and discretion given to the Court to fix the amount in accordance with the position in life of the jurors. Beyond that it would be very difficult to go; for instance, if the demand for travelling allowances is carried, it would mean a considerable outlay besides the difficulty of fixing the amount in each case. There are jurors who are used to travelling first class, and they would object to being paid second class or intermediate class fares, when they travel first class on their own business. At present, jurors who live within a radius of 5 miles from the Court, are not paid anything. I ask the House to consider what the cost will be if we are to meet all these demands. We are told that it will cost us something like Rs. 80,000 a year over and above the present expenditure. I do not think the House will sanction this expenditure, especially when the principle underlying the system of trial by jury is that citizens are expected to give their time for such a purpose without any remuneration whatever. I therefore submit that the resolution ought not to be accepted.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ said, in the vernacular, that he would withdraw the first and second parts of the resolution as amended. He pressed the third part of the resolution, namely, that the choice of selection of jurors be not left entirely to the Police, the choice of the selection of some jurors being left to the union board or the chaukidari panchayati committee, but was prepared to withdraw, if the Hon'ble Member in charge would give an assurance that he would look into the matter.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I give him an assurance that I will make an inquiry into the matter.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

I am surprised at the tone of the opposition of my colleague, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, and regret at heart to see him opposing this motion of which the underlying demand is but a moderate one. Is it not astounding to see, I would ask, that members like my learned friend Babu Annada Charan Dutta fight for their own travelling and residential allowances and do not blush for a moment to draw it? It is because it is their personal interest. But alas! they oppose the same travelling allowances for the poor jurors. Is their claim a somewhat different one? No, of course not. To a man of sober understanding, it is all the same, and I would say if I fight out my own cause—my own interest, then why should not I extend the same principle to others also? It amounts to nothing but selfishness and I deplore the member's attitude.

It has also been pointed out to me that the selection of the jurors lies in the option of the District Judges and Magistrates who alone are

responsible to call upon persons to serve as jurors for a particular case. Well, I do also know this. I do not boast of having such a big brain as many of my learned colleagues suppose themselves to have, yet I am not such a person who would not know even things like this. My friend could not follow me. He has really misunderstood my object and that is why he said so. To make the matter clear I say that what I had before me while speaking of selection and what I meant by selection was simply this: that the power of preparing the list of jurors be given to an entrusted to the union boards and chaukidari panchayati committees.

However, I do not think it advisable to speak at length on the matter, rather I withdraw the motion on the understanding from the Hon'ble Member in charge, who is willing to take the matter into his consideration; but, it is my earnest hope and sincere desire to see that such selections are made in the very near future.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Educational Institutions for the Depressed Classes.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

I move "that this Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to open some primary educational institutions (both day and night schools) in selected areas in each district of the Presidency at Government expense for the education and benefit of the depressed classes.

Time is short, and thus it is a matter of no less regret to me to see a good number of my resolutions still standing in the List of Appendix. To-day being the last day for the discussion of the non-official business, I am afraid that many of them will not be coming up for discussion.

I am not going to take up the time of the Council by giving an elaborate speech on the subject before me, rather I am determined to explain the real object in but a very few words. It is the condition—the deplorable condition—of the depressed classes that I am speaking of. Their condition is really grave and is at the same time pitiable to look at. The human mind can scarcely form any idea, can hardly frame any conception of this scene of horror. I think it my bounden duty—a duty imposed upon me—to present it before the Council.

It may at once be asked here as to what is the cause of this. To answer this question, I would say that the chief cause of their deplorable condition is their illiteracy—the want of learning. You look at their mass in the aggregate and what you are sure to find is that they are mostly uneducated. For the want of the light of learning they are suffering from the hands of their landlords and not the least from the

oppressive clutches of the *mahajans*. Seeing their condition, I cannot help but take compassion on them and it is, therefore, that I move this motion from the very depth of my heart.

I am a zamindar and as such I am in a far better position to give details about them. If you get a vivid narration of their miseries from the very lips of a zamindar, who is fully acquainted with their condition, you will, no doubt, give the matter serious consideration. I have no selfish motive in this motion. It is fully well known, and the truth of it is admitted by one and all, that there is a striking contrast between the two. The interests and benefits of these poor classes of men are a severe blow to the zamindars, and yet I do not care although I am a zamindar. I deem it a duty incumbent upon me to look after their welfare, to ameliorate and make better their condition, and thus I move this resolution. How splendid it would have sounded to the ear, had the Hon'ble the Minister in charge himself moved it. It is his look-out and with this in view I cherish a sanguine and ardent hope that the Hon'ble the Minister will whole-heartedly accept the motion.

One word more and I have done. If the Hon'ble the Minister cannot see his way to accept the motion in its original shape, he is at liberty to propose a modification and present whatever form he thinks best before the Council, and I shall see whether it is acceptable to me.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: Primary education is the primary duty of the Government. These poor people living in the mufassal are paying all sorts of taxes to the Government; they are also responsible for feeding the entire nation As such, they deserve corresponding attention from the whole of the society, including the Government. The cost of primary education is principally borne by the district board; the district board also realises cess, and it also has a duty to perform, namely, to provide for free primary education, but the funds at their disposal are not adequate, so these poor people have to take a share with other societies, and in consequence their share is not large. Therefore, Government should introduce free primary education in the country. Of course if it is introduced soon, it will be a great boon to all, including the depressed classes, as well as the poor people, but in the meantime, so long as primary education is not made free, and is not widely diffused all over the country, Government should take steps to establish some primary schools in the backward areas, at the entire cost of Government, without leaving the matter to the districts boards.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I have no doubt that Shah Syed Emdadul Haq has moved this resolution with the best of motives, but so far as this Council is concerned, those representatives of the backward classes, who have a right to speak on their behalf, have not said anything. Some members of this House are perhaps aware that I have taken

some amount of interest in the education of this particular class, and I venture to say that I am perfectly familiar with this problem, although financial difficulty last year prevented me from taking up this question. But if we give effect to the resolution, as moved by Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, instead of taking a step in advance, it will be a distinctly retrograde step. I think we ought not to encourage the idea that members of the backward community have no place in ordinary institutions. They, as tax-payers, have every right to take advantage of the educational facilities such as exist in the province, and if the many so-called friends of the backward classes will only do justice and will not stand in the way of affording facilities to the members of this class, many thin difficulties will disappear That is one reason why I object to the resolution in this form.

Another reason is that if we introduce special schools for the backward classes at Government expense, such schools are bound to be expensive. Then he said that these schools should be, as compared with other and better methods of helping these classes, started in selected areas in the Presidency. This is typical of many somewhat vague resolutions which have been moved before this House. Those who have at all considered this problem, know that there are districts where the backward classes are to be found in large numbers, and there are other districts where their number is considerably small; so if we are to accept the resolution in this form, it will lead to difficulties. I am quite willing to accept the resolution in the following amended form:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to give increased educational institutions to the children of the backward classes."

I may tell the House that the representatives of the backward classes, who have a right to speak on their behalf, are willing to accept this amendment; so I hope Shah Syed Emdadul Haq will withdraw his motion.

The motion, as amended, was then put and agreed to, the original motion having been withdrawn by Shah Syed Emdadul Haq.

Increase of revenue in Bengal.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: I move "that this Council recommends to the Government that a committee, consisting of a few official and non-official members of the Council, be appointed to inquire into and report on the possibility of steps being taken to increase the revenue of Bengal without affecting the poorer classes of the people."

Whenever we bring forward a resolution before the Council with the intention of doing any good to the country, we notice the Government always say they have no funds. The people, who are already

hard pressed, have been burdened with taxes from which they derive no benefit, and all the money raised thereby is being spent for paying the high officials. Whatever is done by the Government must be endured by the people. With this point in view, I ask the Government to appoint a committee to inquire whether there is any means of increasing the revenue, and if so, to utilise that amount for the benefit of the people. The increased revenue may, for instance, be devoted to the purpose of introducing free compulsory primary education, which is absolutely necessary, and similar other good schemes of the nation-building departments which are postponed for want of funds. With this object in view, I urge the Government to appoint a committee to inquire whether there are any means, or whether there are any resources to tap, to increase the revenue of the province just to enable the nation-building department to work. So I ask the Government to accept my resolution.

I do not like to take up much time of the Council, but I should like to add one thing here. I have always marked that the tendency of the present Government is to tax the poor and not the rich, and I do not know why; it may be on account of the fact that the Cabinet consists of none but rich men. Only a few days ago, many of my hon'ble colleagues supported the Stamp Bill and the Court-fees Bill. Let me see what they will do now, and what they have got to say about my resolution.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I think it is the intention of everybody that the burden of taxation should fall lightly on the poor. But the difficulty lies in finding out some suitable form of taxation which may have the desired effect. It is because these poor people form the large majority of the population, taxation in whatever form will come from them. Everybody is anxious to find out some means whereby a suitable form of taxation can be devised so that the poorer people may be relieved. This year we have passed three taxation Bills; one of them is the Court-fees Bill. In my speech in support of my amendment, I pointed out to this Council that the suits in the Munsif's Courts pay the largest court-fees, and in these cases 88 per cent. of the cases are decided *ex-parte;* in all these cases the poor are the defendants, and they have to bear the entire costs of the suits. So it is evident, therefore, in the case of the Court-fees Act, the whole burden falls on the poor people. The principal revenue of the country, *viz.*, land revenues also paid by the poorer people who own land. Then comes the revenue derived from salt. Though small, it is the poorer people who consume the largest amount of salt, and the effect of all these taxes is that the burden falls very heavily on the poor, though there are people who have adequate means of paying, but they have not to bear the adequate share of the taxation. So it is desirable to find out some means

whereby the difficulty of the poorer people may be lessened, and at the same time, the other classes may not be heavily taxed. From this point of view, I support the resolution that there ought to be a committee which must work together to find out if it is not possible for them to suggest means whereby the burden of the poor may be relieved, and may be evenly distributed over the whole of society, without affecting a particular community.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I have every sympathy with the object of the mover of this motion, because since we first took up the question of taxation some 8 or 9 months ago, our constant effort has been to discover form of a taxation which would not affect the poorer classes of the people. We have not yet succeeded in finding a tax of that nature, because, unfortunately in this country, as in other countries, the poorer classes form the great majority of the people, and you cannot take money out of the pockets of anybody in a community, whether for the purposes of Government or of anybody else, without in some way affecting the poorer classes. All we can do is to see that our measures are framed in such a way as to relieve the poorer classes as much as possible. For this reason I do not think a general committee to inquire into the general question raised in this resolution would be of any use at all. A committee to inquire into a specific proposal for taxation, might no doubt give us very valuable advice on this question of its probable effect on the poorer classes, but a general committee would, I am afraid, have to deal with the matter very much in the air and be unable to give any useful advice at all. Take, for instance, the question of the tax on land, which is undoubtedly a source of taxation, in regard to which, we, in Bengal, are open to the reproach that we do not take enough. A tax on land must, in some way or other, affect the Permanent Settlement, and if you affect the Permanent Settlement, you must affect the poorer people, unless you are going in some arbitrary manner to confine your breach of the Permanent Settlement to the wealthier classes of zamindars. The same arguments apply to an increase in the cess on land which would immediately affect all raiyats, whether they were poor or well-to-do. A further proposal that we have had under consideration but rejected, is to impose an assessment of revenue on town lands. Here again, we should directly affect the poorer classes, because obviously, if you assess the owners of land in a town, to a special building rate, or a rate of that kind, they would certainly pass that charge on to their tenants, and most of the tenants belong to the poorer classes.

One possible source of taxation which is not open to the reproach mentioned in this resolution and which would hardly affect the poorer classes at all, is the question of death duties, and in regard to this matter, as I have told the Council before, we do propose to have a committee within the next few months. A system of graduated death duties

with exemptions for small estates, would be a form of taxation, which, whatever other objections to it might be raised, would at least be, to a large extent, free from the objection that it would affect the poorer classes, and that is a subject we propose to deal with. If the mover or anybody else can suggest any other specific forms of taxation, we shall be glad to consider them, and, if necessary, appoint a committee to go into them, but I am not prepared to consent to a general committee to go into the general question of taxation on the lines suggested by the resolution.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: After hearing the Hon'ble Member, I beg to withdraw the resolution.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Sale of publications of Legislative Council.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

I move "that this Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to make available to the visitors and public, at a reasonable price from the Legislative Department, the following publications at the commencement of each session of the Council:—

(*a*) lists of questions and answers (both starred and unstarred);

(*b*) appendix to the list of business;

(*c*) drafts of Bills introduced or proposed to be introduced; and

(*d*) lists of all other business in the Council."

As time is very short, I rise to move this motion. I would only say a word or two on the subject. I do not intend to press the matter if only Government think it advisable to take steps in the matter for it is an ordinary one, and with these words I take my seat.

MEMBER in charge of LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): The mover of this resolution desires that certain publications be made available for sale to the public at the commencement of each session of the Council. The present practice in regard to questions and answers is that they are given to the Press free and many of them appear in the Press the next day. They are also printed in the proceedings, which do not, of course, appear till after the session is closed. The List of Business is also supplied free to the Press. Copies of Bills are available for sale. None of these items are of any permanent interest and it is not expected that there will be any demand for them for permanent record. I take it, therefore, that the mover's intention is that the public should be able, before the commencement of each meeting, to get hold of a copy of the List of Business or of a copy of the questions. With the eye of the

Finance Member upon me, I am afraid that Government cannot undertake to print these items especially for a very problematic demand. But we do have a certain number of spare copies there are a few copies in addition to the actual number that is distributed to the members and we shall be perfectly prepared to let these be on sale at the office of the Legislative Department on the day of the business. The starred questions, of course, could not be issued as they are not issued to the Press; but we shall arrange that any papers that are issued to the Press should be issued, if desired, on a small payment at the Legislative Department office, to the public. We should then be able to see whether there is any real demand for them. If this will meet the mover's wishes, I hope he will see his way to withdrawing the resolution.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Postponement of revision of salaries of Government officers.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: I move "that this Council recommends to the Government that the revision of the salaries of Government officers be postponed so long as the financial condition of the province be not improved."

My resolution means that those officers whose salaries have been revised may draw the revised rates of pay, but in the case of those whose salaries have not yet been revised should continue to draw their old rates of pay and the revision of their salaries be postponed till the financial condition of the province improves. I see that the major part of the revenue is spent on the salary of the Government officers and very little is given to rate-payers. In my opinion, the revision of the salaries of Government officers ought to be postponed till primary education has been made compulsory and free, and malaria is uprooted. With these few words, I move my resolution.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am glad that Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Jubbar Pahlowan has given me an opportunity of expressing my very great regret at having been a party to the great increase in our annual expenditure to the extent of Rs. 1½ crores in the increase of salaries of lower officers, constables and peons, which will not be covered by the three taxes, and I am sure we shall have a further tax next year. I, therefore, do express my contrition for having been a party to that proceeding and the best thing that I can do now is to support Mr. Pahlowan in his resolution for suspending the increases of salaries till better times.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur's contrition for his misdeeds takes the form apparently of fining other people; that is a very simple way of repenting for one's

sins, and I wish it were open to us to adopt it in other matters. The resolution is general in form and I think that when Maulvi Abdul Jabbar Pahlowan has had as much experience of administration as I have, he will begin to realize the danger of putting forward these general proposals. The people who would be hit by this resolution are a comparatively small number of officers whose cases for one reason or another have been delayed. As the Council know, rightly or wrongly we have thought it necessary to increase the pay of the services generally on account of the changes in economic conditions following upon the war; and, in taking that course we have only followed the example of every other civilized country. But there are a certain number of unfortunate people whose cases were overlooked or taken up late for various reasons and who have not yet received the relief which has been granted to the great majority of the services in this Presidency. The most important of these people are, of course, the ministerial officers. If the Council could realise, how much I am pressed by people interested in the ministerial officers to get the Government of India to hurry up the orders on their case, I am sure the Council would pity my position if I had to turn round to the ministerial officers and tell them that owing to the vote of this Council nothing further could be done for them and that they must give up all expectations of relief.

Apart from the ministerial officers, we have a few miscellaneous posts which would be affected if this resolution were carried. There are the intermediate grades of the Public Health Engineering Department and my friend, Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, says that the revision of their pay cannot be postponed at this stage; there is the question of the revision of pay of the Quinologist and Assistant Quinologist and in their case too, the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur says that he cannot possibly agree to any postponement; and he is of opinion that Government having started the programme of the revision of pay must now carry it through, especially in view of the fact that substantial increments have already been given to other services; there are compounders in State Hospitals and Dispensaries, whose case, the Surgeon-General says, is long pending and cannot fairly be kept pending any longer. There are also a number of officers in the subordinate ranks of the Agricultural Department regarding whom the Hon'ble Nawab Sahib says that there is much discontent and that it is not possible to postpone the revision.

Finally, there are some subordinates in the educational services. When this list which I hold in my hand was written, the revision of the pay of these subordinates had not actually been sanctioned but orders were issued the other day. So I suppose they would not come under the terms of this particular resolution. But there are people in the lower subordinate educational services, vernacular teachers and so on, whose cases apparently have not yet been finally decided, but must, the Hon'ble Mr.

Mitter considers, be dealt with as quickly as possible. There is also the case of the Sub-Registrars regarding which the Hon'ble Mr. Mitter holds, I know, a very strong opinion. These are the sort of people who would be hit if this resolution were carried and I think the Council will agree with me that it would not be desirable to adopt it.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: With such experienced officials as the Hon'ble Mr. Kerr and his predecessors our position has not improved. The other day, I saw in the newspapers that a man at Serajganj killed two or three of his children and his wife and then committed suicide. The cause of this is hunger. Such is the condition of our country. We, who live in the interior of the country never know the benefits of a foreign administration, although it is now more than 150 years that we are living under it. I do not know if the benefits would reach us in the interior even when my black hairs have grown grey. With these words, I beg to withdraw my resolution.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: As I see no chance of carrying the next resolution, I beg leave to withdraw it.

It was as follows:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a *seraikhana* be constructed or a building be hired, in the city of Calcutta, to provide for a week's residence for those poor people who come to Calcutta for short periods of time."

Price of Quinine.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: I move "that this Council recommends to the Government that the selling price of quinine be fixed at such a rate as will neither yield a great profit nor result in a loss to the Government."

This is a very important matter and I cannot leave it aside. Every one will admit that our country is going to be destroyed by malaria. Everywhere malaria prevails and thousands of our countrymen are dying of this disease. Our Minister in charge of the Public Health Department is trying his best to draw up anti-malarial schemes. The price of quinine is, however, getting higher and higher every day. I understand the price of quinine, has decreased from three annas to eight annas (*sic*). I, therefore, ask the Council to seriously consider the question. It is a life and death question.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): I now call upon Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur to move his resolution.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): May I rise to a point of order? I should like this resolution to be put separately, as it relates to the Local Self-Government Department.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: If you want to reply to the resolution moved by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Jubbar Pahlowan, you can do so now.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The resolution which Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur is going to move at a later stage relates to the Local Self-Government Department, but the resolution under discussion relates to the Revenue Department and the attitude of the Revenue Department is as follows:—

The Revenue Department is responsible for the manufacture and sale of quinine of which the raw material comes from the Cinchona Plantations. It is responsible for the full value of the quinine, and must demand that value when it sells the quinine and show that value in the accounts.

To sell quinine at less than the market price, or to give it free to charitable dispensaries would be equivalent to making grants of public money for medical purposes. The Revenue Department have no authority to make such grants. They are to be made by the Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department. If the Council desire to give quinine free to charitable dispensaries or to sell it at a price less than the market price, then grants for this purpose would have to be provided in the Medical Budget.

Past experience shows that if quinine is sold at post offices at a price considerably below the market price, it is bought up and sold at a profit by private persons; this means that the profit is diverted from the people's pocket to that of private persons. This happened when the tubes were sold by post offices for four annas each or Rs. 21-14-0 per pound, and the market price was Rs. 35. The post office price which was eight annas a tube has now been reduced to six annas a tube—and not—as Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Jubbar Pahlowan said—reduced from three annas to eight annas.

It is true that the present profit is large, but the cost of extraction which was Rs. 8-5-0 per pound, and the cost of conversion into treatments was Rs. 8-6-0 or a total of Rs. 16-11-0, whilst the treatments were sold to the post office for Rs. 39-6-0. But this profit, apart from the share taken by the Juvenile Jail, goes into the general funds of the

province and is thus available for expenditure on medical relief or any other purpose. If the profit were sacrificed, the revenues of the province would be so much the less. I do not think that being the Member in charge of the Revenue Department, I could possibly agree to a source of revenue being crippled in the manner suggested by Mr. Pahlowan. I have therefore got to oppose the resolution.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: The quinine is manufactured by Government. I do not of course know whether it is manufactured by the Revenue Department or by the Public Health Department. The general idea, however, is that it is made by the Public Health Department. In case it is made by the Revenue Department, it is not a very difficult task to have it transferred from the Revenue Department to the Public Health Department. Government ought to do what is necessary for the protection of the people and if they do not do so, they would be failing in their duty. The Hon'ble Member said that quinine is exported to other provinces, but I think that if the price of quinine is lowered, the whole quantity will be consumed by the people of our province. Thus, there does not seem to be any possibility of loss of revenue and even if there is a loss of revenue by reducing its price, it ought to be so done as the people will be benefited. With these words, I commend my resolution to the acceptance of the House.

The motion was then put and lost.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: I want a division, Sir.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You are too late. The motion has been put and declared lost. I cannot reopen the question.

Withdrawal of resolution.

The following resolution was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: "This Council recommends to the Government that suitable provision be made in the next Budget for an experimental pasture ground on a small scale."

Reserved posts for Muhammadans.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ABDUL JUBBAR PAHLOWAN: The Muhammad population of Bengal is 52 per cent. and this percentage was accepted when the Reforms were inaugurated. It is, therefore, a bare act of justice that the Muhammadans should be given the same

proportionate share in all branches of the administration. I do not, however, under the circumstances, want to press my resolution.

The following resolution was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that 52 per cent. of posts of services under the Government, in all the branches of administration, be reserved for Muhammadans, and the appointment of persons of other communities to these reserved posts be strictly prohibited."

Introduction of "Charka" and hand-spinning in institutions.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

I move "that this Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to introduce *charka* and hand-spinning in every aided and recognised institution.

In rising to move this resolution, I may at once tell this House that I have a good deal to say in connection with it. But I am afraid I will not be able to do so as the time of the arrival of His Excellency the Governor to prorogue the Council is approaching. I would therefore be brief and shall present before you laconically the main object on which the principle of my resolution is based. I must also frankly confess that I am not inspired by any spirit of hostility to the Government in moving this resolution. I do not approach you as the advocate of any particular class of men or of any particular community, rather I stand before you to-night to champion the cause of India—my motherland—to defend and support the cause of the inarticulate peasantry, to plead for the voiceless multitudes—the enormous country population, dependent upon agriculture only, steeped in poverty and immersed in the struggle for existence. Every Indian, every true and noble citizen of India, should consider it his bounden duty to bear in mind the picture of India what she was a hundred and fifty years ago. They must recall the past glory of India when she wore the plumed and jewelled turban upon her head with a smile of peace.

I am confident there is no tongue to deny the statement that the India of to-day is the very India that she was a hundred and fifty years ago. There has absolutely been no geographical change in her features. Then why is it that India is not at heart happy and contented? Why is it that she is not as well off as she was before? Why is it that there is a dissension in this soil? Discontent in one form or another is universal in India to-day. Why? It may be perhaps because that the internal administration is not all right. Of course it is partly due to that and partly due to the lack of industries in this country. Before the British occupation of India—nay some time even after that—India used to produce things that were necessary for everyday use.

There were industries in this country too. Indians were then contented and satisfied with the products of India and lived upon it happily. But what is it to-day? We have nothing to wear. We look upon other countries beyond the seas to send us clothes. The products of India are taken away by foreigners and we are left to die of hunger and starvation. From the statistical report of the last part of the eighteenth century, it is clearly seen that since the year 1793 A.D., India has taken a downward course. She is gradually going down to degradation. It is from there that we find that in 1793 only 156 lbs. of cotton-thread were imported from England. But what in 1809? It is astounding to hear that 10,18,400 lbs. of it were imported in and gradually this figure is increasing. Millions and millions of Indians are dying for want of industrial growth—for want of crop. From the account of the noble-hearted Dr. Digby, it is seen that from the year 1793 to 1900, i.e., in 107 years, the total number of casualties of the whole of the world in wars and bloodshed, in strifes and the destruction of all that is lovely and virtuous, never exceeded 50 lakhs. But is it not startling to hear, I ask, that in India—in British India alone—3 crores and 25 lakhs of human beings died of famine in a much lesser period than the above? The detailed figures are as follows:—From 1801 to 1825, 10 lakhs died of famine. In the second part of the seventeenth century, 5 lakhs, in the third part of that century 50 lakhs, in six times famine and during the last 25 years there were 18 instances of famine and 2 crores and 60 lakhs died in it. This cannot be chiefly due to the want of growth of crop in this country. If some thoughtless mind would plead so, I would then ask him to explain what would have been the condition of England? There the growth of crop is very poor, but of the 365 days in the year the people of England live idle for 274 days. There, then, must be great famines every year. But we do not find any instance of such a scene of horror as we do find in India. The people of England are prosperous. This is on account of industry and on account of industry alone—that they live in comfort and flourish. They have accumulated sufficient wealth through industry and by dint of that wealth they take away to their country whatever they like. Look! they live thousands and thousands of miles off beyond the seas, but take away from our country alone crops worth 16½ crores of rupees.

In India there is a great want of industry. From the census of 1891 and 1901, respectively, it is seen that some 14 lakhs of men have given up gunny business. The number of goldsmiths, jewellers and silversmiths have decreased by 11,000,619 and the figures of the weavers who gave up their calling under compulsion reaches 11,018,659. Thus, more than 30 lakhs of the entire population have given up their callings. Now the only way which has been left open to them is joining the agricultural calling and now we see that about 85 per cent. live by agriculture. Further, from the account of Dr. Digby and the speech

delivered in 1901 by Viscount Curzon—the then Viceroy and Governor-General of India—it is found that the average income of the people of India per head per annum comes up to Rs. 18-9-0 and Rs. 30; but, after careful consideration, it is seen that the latter figure comes up to only Rs. 20 per head per annum. It will strike everyone of you to hear that the amount spent upon a prisoner in British India amounts to Rs. 24 per head per annum. Seeing this one can safely pass a remark that the life of a prisoner excels that of a husbandman and a villager in India. It is rightly said by Sir Charles Elliott—the ex-Governor of Bengal—that about half the population of India live upon half-a-belly meal. Now let us see what there is in England. Excuse me, I am not invidiously and enviously contrasting ourselves with them. But as they are the ruling races over us, I desire to do so. There, in England, the average income per head per annum amounts to £45, and £300, respectively. Besides, the average age-limit in England is 45 years, but in India, according to Dr. Digby, it is only 23 years. Why this glaring and great difference? This is due to hardship and the repeated calamities which the Indians have to face. Their lives are shortened and they prematurely die.

As time is short and there are other members to speak after me, I leave off citing the figures. In short, there will be no injustice if one would say that the condition of the Indian subject of Great Britain is deplorable. In the year 1831 A.D., Mr. W. H. Chaplain, the then Collector of Madras, remarked, very aptly, that he was afraid that the nature of their Government was not much for improvement rather was adverse to that. But then India was administered by the East India Company who came here with the plea of a trader, and that being so, their administration might not be for the welfare of the subject. Now we are proud, and I say it with pardonable pride, that we are the subjects of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor. Our conditions ought to have been improved. Injustice and wrongs of yore—of the times of the East India Company—ought not to have been repeated under the direct administration of the benign British Government. Our pitiable conditions have not by an inch improved to the present time. We are still starving. If His Imperial Majesty does not take compassion on our depressed and deplorable condition even now, we will die a double death. Sir, excuse me for the liberty of suggesting that, I think, it is because of this that the non-co-operators have shown their faces. Wherever they go they meet with laudable successes. Their propaganda is taking a firm footing. People are volunteering to go to jail and are even ready to die. In these days of democracy, the most democratic thing will be to solve the bread problem of the country and solve it in a practical way by making people self-reliant and, needless to add, self-supporting. The only method to achieve this result is to impart industrial education to the young children and youths of the country, to introduce *charkas*, spinning wheel and hand-looms in schools. These things are not the least objectionable

nor is there anything political in them. I say aloud that *charka* is not a political thing. At leisure everybody—the rich and poor alike—can do it. *Charka* is really an interesting thing. If any statesman is averse to it, I would say that it is due to his bankrupt diplomacy. I am sure that Government is not at all averse to *charka*. It is therefore that I would urge upon all to carry this resolution and give effect to it so that the misunderstanding that is now prevalent among the public in general be cleared away.

In concluding, I would say that Government need not for a moment think that there will be a good deal of expenditure in the beginning. I am afraid that this idea may lead the Hon'ble the Minister in charge to oppose this resolution. But I am clearing the matter here. If the Hon'ble the Minister finds anything objectionable in the original resolution, I would be glad to see him suggesting a modified form of it. It may be that I may accede to the modified form simply in order to subdue the present discontent.

Mr. TARIT BHUSHAN ROY: I rise to support the resolution which has been placed before the House. I will not give it a halting support because I am convinced more than ever that the economic salvation of our country depends in a large measure upon the revival of the hand-loom industry. That is also the considered opinion of an industrial magnate like Sir Damodar Thackersey and of Mr. Havell. It is no use disguising the fact that there are men in high spheres of life who do not believe in the efficacy of the hand-loom as a factor in restoring the manufacturing power of India. Knowing as they do how thoroughly India is dependent upon power-looms for her textile fabrics, is it any wonder that they should take this pessimistic view? There are others again, even men in the highest rank—as I know for certainty—who do not share their scepticism. With her past history forgotten and with the dismal chapter of the present era of hopeless and helpless dependence upon foreign countries for finished products, staring her in the face, there can be but few with hearts so stout who will not sink in cold despair about the future. But I venture to say with confidence that every one of us who has read the past history of India and read it to any purpose, is bound to see the gleam of the dawn amidst the darkness of the night. He will, I hope, rise with a heart full of hope and joy for the future which it is for us to make or to mar.

No one will perhaps deny the fact that there was a time, not in the remote past, but early in the nineteenth century when India produced yarn and fabrics solely by the spinning wheel and the hand-loom, in quantities sufficient not only for herself, but for export to other countries. In cheapness, durability and fineness, her textile fabrics could not be equalled or excelled. Even England could not compete with her in the open market.

In 1813, Calcutta alone exported to London two million sterling worth of hand-spun cotton goods. But in 1820, Calcutta imported two million sterling worth of British cotton manufactures. The first import of British cotton twist into India took place in 1823. It was 1,28,000 lbs. in 1823 which rose to 40 00,000 lbs. in 1828. It was after 1820 that the export and manufacture of textile fabrics declined steadily never to rise again. I will let Mr. H. H. Wilson, the famous historian of India, speak about the causes which led to this disaster. I cannot do better than place his own verdict in his own language—

> It is also a melancholy instance of the wrong done to India by the country on which she has become dependent. It was stated in evidence (in 1813) that the cotton and silk goods of India up to the period could be sold for a profit in the British market at a price from 50 to 60 per cent. lower than those fabricated in England. It consequently became necessary to protect the latter by duties of 70 to 80 per cent on their value or by positive prohibition. Had this not been the case, had not such prohibitive duties and decrees existed, the mills of Paisley and Manchester would have been stopped in their outset and could scarcely have been again set in motion even by the power of steam. They were created by the sacrifice of Indian manufacture.

This is at once a glowing and a harrowing picture. Great Britain possesses to-day 6 crore spindles out of the world's total of 8 crores. She exported into India 97·1 per cent. of piece goods in 1913-14, 90·3 per cent. in 1919-20 and 85·6 per cent. in 1920-21.

I have already given a picture of India's resourcefulness in the manufacture of cotton fabrics in the beginning of the nineteenth century with her spinning wheel and her hand-loom. Coming to more recent times it will be interesting to learn that in 1905, about a quarter of a million persons operated with hand-looms and wove 19 crore lbs. of yarn. I will not tax your patience any longer. I have abiding faith in the true *Swadeshi* movement which is a patriotic and an economic movement. I will quote in this connection the inspiring message of India's noblest son, Gopal Krishna Gokhale of revered memory—

> India needs to-day above everything else that the gospel of this devotion should be preached to high and low, to prince and to peasant in town and in hamlet, till the service of the motherland becomes with us as overmastering a passion as it is in Japan.

Only the other day the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, accepted the principle of a similar resolution which I had the honour of bringing forward before the House. I hope the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter will extend the same sympathetic view to this matter also and accept the principle of this resolution. I do not ask him to make any contribution towards the establishment of *charka* classes; only the acceptance of the principle is all that is wanted.

With these words, I commend the resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: Education in this country at the present moment is in a very bad way, and I would be failing in my duty here if I do not protest against tampering with the present system of our education. Boys go to schools to read and write and not for political purposes. As regards the cult of the *charka*, I will give you a conclusive answer. A gentleman, a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Law, a man of sterling character, who was for a short time the dictator of Bengal from the non-co-operation side, came to me in order to ask me to send his son to a foreign country for industrial education, and he told me this, on being questioned by me, "that the labouring classes cannot take to the *charka*, the leisured classes should take to it." I say what the dictator of Bengal said. A labourer will get six pice to twelve pice per day from the *charka* whereas a man earns one rupee per day by his labour in other directions.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Who is the dictator of Bengal he is referring to?

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The papers will show. I do not want to disclose his name. Then I asked him—"why do you then recommend the *charka*? He said—"We recommend the *charka* for the leisured classes." I know there is a great Rai Bahadur, one of the richest men in Calcutta, who after his breakfast spins the *charka* for three hours in his drawing room. That is very good, but for us poor people it is an impossibility. I therefore say, with all the emphasis that I command, that our schools should not be brought into the vortex of the political agitation and our education destroyed.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: There is something like a superstition in connection with *charka* and the Rai Bahadur's speech is an instance to the point. To my mind *charka* does not mean a political cult. Whether it is suitable for being introduced in our schools or not, is for the Hon'ble Minister to say. He has studied the question and I am sure he will give due attention to it, but because it is *charka* and, therefore, it has to be avoided is a frame of mind which is hopelessly beyond comprehension.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I had no mind to take part in this debate but after the speech that has been delivered by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, I think I ought to say a few words. The Rai Bahadur has made this resolution a political question, but he must be aware, as the representative of the University, that a few months ago, at the instance of the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, a meeting of head-masters was organised and in that meeting one of the subjects that was settled upon was the pursuit of vocational subjects. Those subjects included *charka*, spinning and weaving, and I do not

know if the Rai Bahadur is prepared to throw overboard his own constituency. If so, I do not know whose views he represents here in this matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: In the first place I desire to make it quite clear to the Council that industrial education in special industrial schools is dealt with by my Hon'ble Colleague the Nawab Sahib and that I deal with industrial education in ordinary educational institutions.

I would, therefore, ask the Council to consider the question from the point of view of ordinary educational institutions. We have over 900 high schools and over 37,000 primary schools besides middle English schools. If the object of the mover of this resolution be to introduce the *charka*—I am not going to enter into the merits or demerits of such introduction—then the House will realise what it will involve in money, in men, in teachers, in energy, in instruments, in cotton and so on. But I am told both by the mover and Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy that they do not want money. That makes my position much easier. If they do not want money—the tax-payers' money—then I am relieved of one anxiety. In the next place, what jurisdiction have I, for example, to compel an unaided school to take up *charka*? I fear I have none. In the third place, even as regards aided institutions, if I make it a condition precedent that unless you spin the *charka*, I shall not give you any money, I think my action will be somewhat tyrannical. Therefore, the resolution in its present form, it must be obvious, cannot be accepted, but the mover in his Bengali speech has told us that there is an impression abroad that if in any school, *charka* be introduced, the Government will at once set the police on that school and do something very dreadful there. I may at once tell the Council that Government have no such intention, and had never any such intention in the past. On the other hand, approaching the matter quite seriously and speaking from the point of view of an ordinary educational institution, I welcome any form of manual labour, whether it be *charka* or any other form of manual labour. If the Bengali boys were to take to manual labour, he will be a better and more efficient citizen. From that point of view, if any educational institution is willing to take up *charka*, I have not the slightest objection to such an educational institution taking it up. I do not desire to enter into the economic question at all, because I think it is irrelevant for the purpose of the present discussion and also because I am not concerned with the question in my portfolio. I am willing to accept the following amendment to the resolution moved by the Shah Sahib:—

"That schools of any class wishing and able to introduce into their curriculum satisfactory courses in *charka* and hand-spinning shall be permitted to do so."

I think this will be acceptable to the mover and to Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

I regret very much to see my friend Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur opposing me. I am sure he is unable to measure the pangs of the afflicted Indians even by a stretch of imagination for he himself is rolling in luxury. However, I am glad to see the modified forms suggested by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge and I accept that modified form and hope it will be carried.

The Deputy-President then put the amended resolution.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: May I rise to a point of order? Before you put the new resolution to vote, the Shah Sahib should be given permission to withdraw his original resolution.

The DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: He has accepted the amended form of resolution as proposed by the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: There is substantial difference between the two. It appears to be a new resolution altogether.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: Has the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur any right to enter into a discussion with the President in regard to a ruling?

The Deputy-President then put the following amended motion which was agreed to:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that schools of any class wishing and able to introduce into their curriculum satisfactory courses in *charka* and hand-spinning shall be permitted to do so."

Appointment as special constables.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I move that "this Council recommends to the Government that the appointment as special constable be not made by way of punishment to a political offender or for political opinions."

Section 17 of Act V of 1861 lays down that "when it shall appear that any unlawful assembly, etc., has taken place, . . it shall be lawful for any police officer, not below the rank of inspector, to apply to the nearest magistrate to appoint so many of the residents of the neighbourhood, as such police officer may require, to act as special police officers, for such time and within such limits as he shall deem necessary; and the Magistrate to whom such application is made shall, unless he sees cause to the contrary, comply with the application."

Therefore, this is a section which empowers the police and the Magistrate in case of riots and disorders to employ special constables as a mark of confidence and honour, and not as was done during the German war when all persons whose political opinions were not agreeable to the Government were put in as soldiers and sent to the front. I do not wish to discuss the matter further as I understand the Hon'ble Member in charge does not think that these appointments should be made by way of punishment to political offenders or for political opinions and that he will agree to it. In that view it is not necessary to rake up old matters of which the newspapers of Bengal are full.

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): In replying to this motion it will be sufficient to read to the House rules regulating the appointment of special police officers. They are as follows:—

Method of selection.—When breaches of the peace are threatened, the Government has a right to call on any resident in the immediate neighbourhood to assist the police in the discharge of their legitimate duty of preserving the public peace; but it is not right to appoint the ringleaders of contentious factions for the purpose of humiliating them in the eyes of their neighbours It is, however, desirable to select leading and influential men, whose authority is likely to be respected by the mass of the population, and from this point of view it would be reasonable to appoint the ringleaders of contentious factions to be special police officers during the time of excitement, as their presence, while employed in patrolling the streets or on the other duties assigned to them by the police, in matters of watch and ward, would show that they were not engaged in fomenting the disturbances, but were using their influence to repress them

This rule was laid down by Government for the guidance of their officers in appointing special police. Any proposal to appoint men as special constables merely because they hold certain political views would merely be wrong and would contravene the orders of Government. I think that this motion is answered by the rules that are in force and that the answer to it is that the Government already act upon it.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I ask if by the words "ringleaders of contentious factions" it was meant persons who hold certain political views?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: They mean, for instance, if there are two parties in a village, the ringleader of both the parties.

The motion was put and agreed to.

"Id-ul-fitr" holidays.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

I move "that this Council recommends to the Government that the number of holidays granted for the Muhammadan festival *Id-ul-fitr* be extended from two to four days."

It is with a deep sense of responsibility that I rise to-night to draw the attention of the House to the *Id-ul-fitr* holiday. In moving this resolution I feel a particular delight as it is for the welfare of the Islamic population in Bengal. The leave which is now being granted for *Id-ul-fitr* is only two days; but I would desire very much to have it increased by two more days.

It is manifestly impossible in such a short time that we have at our disposal to-day to present a full and complete exposition of the Islamic views, one that will satisfy the inquiring mind as to why I want four days holidays for *Id-ul-fitr*. However, I will generalize to some extent. I am afraid that some may jump up at once and say that I am making an unnecessary demand. But it is not so. The demand is a very moderate and a just one too. I would ask every sensible and sober mind on earth to answer if he does not agree that the religious sentiment of each and every community is as keen as that of the others. That being so, I think it quite just and proper to keep in sight the religious zeal and feelings of each other and not to turn a cold shoulder to it. Every community must be given a sufficient number of holidays to celebrate their festivals, and with this in view I hope—and most earnestly hope—that my learned colleagues, be they Hindus or Muhammadans or Christians, will join their voices with me in the achievement of my object.

I must acknowledge here that in our province, there are holidays in sufficient number; but in spite of this it is a matter of regret to see that where such a holiday is most needed, there only it is insufficient and lacking and a glaring instance of this is the two days' holidays for the great Muhammadan festival *Id-ul-fitr*. Look at the Islamic population of Bengal, look at the excellence and greatness of this festival and then compare it with the two days' holidays given for it. It is quite insufficient.

I do not think I need go into details as all of you are aware that the Moslems have two *Ids* the one is the *Id-ul-fitr* and the other *Id-uz-zoha* The latter is celebrated by the Muhammadan on the tenth day of the moon of the twelfth lunar month. This *Id* cannot be compared with the former one—I mean the *Id-ul-fitr*—in excellence from a religious point of view. According to our tradition *Id-ul-fitr* has a great significance. Prior to this *Id* day the Muhammadans have to observe a clear one month's fasting. This fasting is compulsory on every true Moslem and is one of the principal dictates of Islam. The true believers of Islam observe it for they know that of all the motives which can be brought to bear upon man, religion is the highest and most enduring. Other considerations affect time, this reaches to eternity. This fasting month is called the month of *Ramzan-ul-Mobarak* and has a great significance. It excels all months in excellence from one point of view. It is in this month—in this very month of *Ramzan*—that the Holy Koran was sent down. I would thus ask you to give a thought to the subject, for

I am sure that what we cannot achieve by *copia verborum* we can attain by appealing to the reasoning of a soul.

Now I turn to another point. It is the difficulty which the *amlahs* and the civil functionaries feel on account of only two days holidays. They get ony two days for *Id-ul-fitr* but perchance, Sir, the moon is visible on the twenty-ninth day of the moon—the poor *amlahs* suffer then very greatly. I say, Sir, from practical experience and say with as much veracity that they cannot peaceably enjoy this great festival amid their kith and kin. Then consider it from the physical point of view. It may safely be said that the Moslems observe fasting for a month. They naturally become weak and thus to nourish health only two day's holiday looks as insufficient as possible. I ask everyone of you in this House if this is not a true statement. To give us four days for this festival is thus absolutely necessary. Many of you may not know the difficulties that we feel and many of you may not conceive or frame an idea even of the hardships that a true Moslem has to endure during the month of *Rumzan*. Our fasting is not like the *Ikadasi* of the Hindus nor like the meat-lent of the Christians—the special abstinence enjoined by the Church. We are not permitted to take even a drop of water. Those only know who observe it as to how difficult it is, as the Bengali verse says:—

Chiro Sukhi jon Bhrome ki Kokhon
Bethita Bedon bojhite pâre;
Kijatona Bise Bujhibe se Kishe
Kabhu ashibise daungshene jare

which means—"Can one who is rolling in luxury measure the pangs of the afflicted even by a stretch of imagination? How can he know, how painful it is, who has never been bitten by a venomous snake?

One word more before I conclude. When I have urged upon you the extension of the *Id-ul-fitr* holidays by two days more, I believe and hope at the same time that none of you has misunderstood me to have advocated universal knowledge. Already there are loud complaints among the Moslem in general and the Moslem *amlahs* and civil functionaries in particular, that two days for *Id* is insufficient. In case Government cannot see its way to extend this holiday by two days more, let me ask that at least a day should be given for it. Now it is only a day's extension that I am asking for. If Government cannot accede to this even let me suggest an alternative. I would then urge that from the five days holiday of *Muharram* one day should be taken out and in lieu be given in the *Id-ul-fitr*. I do not see any reason why five days have been given in connection with *Muharram*. This festival is not such an important festival as the *Id-ul-fitr* is. Of course, a Shiah would accuse me of having said so, but I say that which is actually true, and I would assert that in Bengal—nay in India—the Shiahs are only in a microscopic minority. I do not desire to cause an affliction to their heart, for I have no grudge against them. It is indeed

deplorable to see that the granting of holidays was made without thinking and considering the importance of the festivals. Look! the Shiahs have had their five days for *Muharram*—the Hindus their long *puja* holidays and the Christians their sufficient number of days to enjoy the X'mas, Good-Friday and Easter days. Who is the sufferer? It is only the poor *Sunnis*—the sect to which I belong—even though their population is sufficiently great in Bengal to be taken into consideration. The Shiahs have more days probably because they were thought to be the ruling races here—the Hindus because of their being the chief officers and courtiers of the Shiahs, and the Christians, because they have thought this to be so. I do not know if this is a fact. Sir, I am taking my decent from a Shah family—a family of the Saint—and thus I represent our religious cause. Indeed it is a duty incumbent upon me to do so with stress and emphasis, and I do this with an exuberant sensation of pleasure.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: Last July, the member gave notice of a motion proposing a general redistribution of Muhammadan holidays in such a way as not to exceed the present scale of holidays in any appreciable manner. That resolution fell through, but if it had been moved and if it had commanded the general support of the House, I should have been prepared, on behalf of Government, to agree to the appointment of a committee—a small committee—of Muhammadan gentlemen to consider the present distribution of Muhammadan holidays—a matter in regard to which, I understand, there is a certain amount of dissatisfaction among the Muhammadan community. But this resolution asks us to increase the number of holidays allowed for the *Id-ul-fitr*, by two days straightway. That we are not prepared to agree with. We have already in Bengal more holidays than in any other province, and I do not think it would be right for us to hamper ourselves in the industrial competition to which we are subject now a days by adding to the list of holidays. For that reason, I am unable to agree to this resolution. The member, if I understand him aright, did suggest that some days might be cut off from the *Muharram* holidays and some further redistribution of that kind be made. But we know for a fact that the curtailment of the *Muharram* holidays would be very unpopular among a section of the Muhammadan community and from the information which I have obtained by discussing matters of this kind with Muhammadan gentlemen, I understand that what suits Eastern Bengal in the matter of holidays does not necessarily suit Western Bengal. There are other complications of that kind, and I think the Council will agree that if this matter is to be taken up at all it must be taken up placing it before a competent committee for consideration. I am prepared to adopt that course, if it is the general wish of the House, but I am not prepared to adopt isolated amendments in regard to Government holidays like the one which we are discussing.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ spoke in Bengali. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

The very idea that I have been opposed is a real pang to me. I regret extremely and am unable to describe that in expression. Perhaps my Bengali speech was not audible to the officials; but what could I do. At first I began in Urdu, but was opposed and was not allowed to go on speaking in Urdu. However, if the Hon'ble the member in charge gives me a hope of the formation of a Committee even to consider the matter, I would withdraw my resolution.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. KERR: I am not prepared to appoint a committee at the present stage, because there is no evidence of a general desire for a committee. Shah Syed Emdadul Haq is the only member who has brought up this question of Muhammadan holidays so far, but if the House expresses its desire for a Committee and puts its recommendation before the Government in proper constitutional form, the Government will consider it. But as matters stand I am not prepared to ask Government to appoint a committee at the present stage.

The motion was then put and lost.

At this stage the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes.

At 5-45 P.M., the Registrar to the Council announced to the Deputy-President that His Excellency the Governor was without.

The Deputy-President then left his seat on the *dais* and met His Excellency at he door of the Chamber. His Excellency then entered the Chamber with the Deputy-President and, at the request of the Deputy-President, took his seat on the presidential Chair, the Deputy-President being seated on His Excellency's right.

His Excellency the Governor's address.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR of BENGAL (the Earl of Lytton): DEPUTY-PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—I have read with great pleasure the extremely kind references to Lady Lytton and myself which were made by many speakers in this Council two days ago, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the generous and kindly way in which you have welcomed us on our arrival in Calcutta. I have only a few words to address to you this afternoon. It is not possible for me to make a general review of the session which is about to close or to offer any comments upon its work. I am informed that it is the longest on record and that more work has been done than in any previous session. If that is so, I congratulate you on having arrived at the end of your strenuous labours, as well as on the excellent work which you have accomplished. I also desire to express to you my thanks for the financial provision which you have made for my Government. The proposals of the Budget, which they were obliged to submit to you, could

not have been pleasant ones to you. You subjected themeto a very searching examination and criticism, and finally passed three taxation Bills which covered the deficit which had been disclosed and made provision for the coming year. I greatly appreciate your action in voting these Bills.

Beyond this I cannot speak of a session with which, till now, I have had no official connection, but I have come here to prorogue the Council this afternoon, because I wanted to take the first available opportunity of making your acquaintance and of assuring you of my desire to co-operate with you in the closest possible way in every department of Government. I am well aware that under the present constitution I occupy a peculiarly difficult position, as I am responsible to two different authorities. For all the acts of my Executive Council in reserved departments I am still responsible to the Imperial Parliament through the Secretary of State, and for the acts of my Ministers in transferred departments, I am now, with them, responsible solely to you. Between you and me neither the Viceroy nor the Secretary of State nor the Imperial Parliament can intervene in such matters. Now I have always been brought up in the belief that no man can serve two masters, and suddenly I find myself called upon to do this very thing. It occurs to me, therefore, that it can only be done by making the two masters one as far as possible. In other words, I shall use my utmost efforts to secure your general approval and co-operation in the administration of reserved subjects, and to satisfy Parliament through the Secretary of State that I have confidence in my Ministers and in their administration. In pursuing this policy I hope I may count on your assistance and support.

There is only one specific matter arising out of the business of this session to which I will refer, and I do so because I am called upon to come to a decision upon it myself, and it will serve as an illustration of what I have just been saying. I am informed that there are one or two small items of expenditure which the Council had approved earlier in the year and which were subsequently rejected in the belief that owing to the improved political situation they were no longer necessary. I am referring to certain proposals for strengthening the Calcutta Mounted Police and also to the provision of some temporary jail accommodation. Now part of the expenditure covered by the vote which was rejected had already actually been incurred. The money was spent in perfect good faith after the Legislative Council had been consulted and their approval obtained. I do not think that the matter was clearly understood by the Council when they were asked to vote for a lump sum in the Budget under the head of "Measures to meet the political situation." The result is that the funds required to pay for expenditure which has actually been incurred, have been refused by a majority of one in this Council and that is the situation which I find on my arrival. If no opportunity is available for a reconsideration of the matter, I shall have no

option but to restore these small items under the powers of section 72D (*2*) (*a*) of the Government of India Act; but equally I did not wish to do this without explaining my action to you. Whether or not any opportunity will be available to you for a reconsideration of the vote I am not yet aware. I have not had much time in which to take advice on the point. But as this is the only occasion I shall have of addressing you on the present session, I desired to explain that I could not leave the Government without the means of fulfilling its obligations.

In conclusion, I desire to express my sympathy with the President in the continued illness which has kept him absent throughout the session. This has involved a very heavy burden of work upon the Deputy-President, and I feel sure that the Council has appreciated the hard work which he has done.

The Council now stands prorogued. (Applause.)

His Excellency then left the Chamber preceded by the Deputy-President.

The members then dispersed.

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INDEX

TO

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report.)

VOLUME VII—No. 5. SEVENTH SESSION.

March 18th to 31st, 1922.

Acquisition of land for the proposed Mymensingh Medical School, 133

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.

Demands for grants, 40, 84, 150, 152, 153, 156, 186, 188, 192.

Adjournment, 77, 106, 129, 193, 253, 307, 360, 405

Afzal, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada K. M.

Age-limit for Matriculation Examination, 374

Appointment of Muhammadan officer in the Manufacturing Department of the Central Jail, 2.

Demands for grants, 227.

Facilities to Muhammadan prisoners to observe their religious rites, 361.

Middle class unemployment, 397.

Muhammadan Assistant Jailors, 132

Muhammadan Jail Warders, 254.

Number of Muhammadan Assistants in the office of the Inspector-General of Prisons, 3.

Post-mortem examination of Muhammadan prisoners, 2

Separate kitchens for Hindu and Muhammadan prisoners in Jails, 2.

Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 313.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin

Demands for grants, 212, 282.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin

Demands for grants, 280, 299

Educational Institutions for the depressed classes, 419.

Increase of revenue in Bengal, 421

Mufassal jurors, 414, 415

Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin

Age-limit for Matriculation Examination, 374

Alaipur Khal, 139.

Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim

Demands for grants, 118, 274, 283.

Middle class unemployment, 389

Ali, Munshi Ayub

Retrospective effect given to revision of certain higher services, 140

Alipore Jail

Revision of emoluments of—Press employees, 132.

Allowances

Increase in expenditure due to the revision of overseas—, 130.

Revision of overseas—, 134.

Anti-malarial operations, 406.

Anti-malarial works, 135.

Appointment as Special Constables, 436.

Appointment of

Muhammadan officer in the Manufacturing Department of the Central Jail, 2.

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler as Governor of Bihar and Orissa, 317.

Arrests and Convictions under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, 196.

Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath

Acquisition of land for the proposed Mymensingh Medical School, 133.

Anti-malarial operations, 406

Anti-malarial works, 135.

Demands for grants, 244, 248, 249, 250, 262, 359.

Ferry platforms in the Basirhat subdivision, 408.

Filtered water-supply to the riparian municipalities, 409.

Improvement of water-supply, 382.

Prosecution of Bharat Chandra Karmakar for alleged commission of nuisances in "Jugipukur" tank in village Patharghata in Baraset, 199.

Realisation of tax on Sitakund pilgrims, 195

Selection of village Shilmori as the polling centre for election to local board from Chandina thana in Tippera, 256.

Survey of malarious tract in Jessore, 410.

Barton, Mr. H.

Demands for grants, 155.

Basirhat

Ferry platform in the—subdivision, 408.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

Machines indented for in the—, 255.

Private printing work in the—, 317.

Reorganisation of the—141.

Barisal

Urinal for female passengers at—steamer station, 407.

Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath

Demands for grants, 104, 236.

Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra

Demands for grants, 346, 347, 348.

Machines indented for in the Bengal Secretariat Press, 255.

Private printing works in the Bengal Secretarit Press, 317.

Realisation of tax on Sitakund pilgrims, 195.

Reorganisation of the Bengal Secretariat Press, 141.

Revision of emoluments of Alipore Jail Press employees, 132.

Certificates under section 72D (2) of the Government of India Act, 256, 411.

"Charka"

Introduction of—and hand-spinning in institutions, 429.

Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan

Demands for grants, 84, 85, 91, 96, 103, 104, 121, 122, 148, 150, 168, 170, 173, 174, 175, 179, 189, 330.

Middle class unemployment, 390.

Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath

Demands for grants, 189, 249, 271, 336, 341.

Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad

Demands for grants, 30, 31, 32.

Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath

Charka and hand-spinning, 431.

Clearing a street of prostitutes, 132.

Demands for grants, 18, 59, 69, 80, 90, 186, 269, 288, 291, 296, 297, 320, 322, 324, 327, 332, 335, 336, 338, 339.

Ferry platforms in the Basirhat subdivision, 408.

Filtered water-supply to the riparian municipalities, 409.

List of indigenous industries carried on in Bengal, 3.

Middle class unemployment, 393, 405.

Serampore Weaving School, 409.

Chaudhuri, Sir Asutosh

Demands for grants, 9, 226, 239, 294.

Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 309.

Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali

Demands for grants, 29, 263, 267, 268, 270, 275, 277, 285, 288, 289, 291, 292, 295, 300, 302, 305, 325, 336, 338, 340, 344.
Faridpur-Bhanga-Madaripur Railway Project, 133.
Industries Department, 362.
List of indigenous industries carried on in Bengal, 3.
Middle class unemployment, 404.
Pay and functions of certain officers of the Industries Department, 136.
Serampore Weaving School, 409
Sericulture Department, 142.
Works of the Industries Department, 138.

Cohen, Mr. D. J.

Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 316.

Conciliation Board

Constitution of a—in connection with the strike of workmen, 4.

Crawford, Mr. T. C.

Demands for grants, 339.

Dacca

Rearrangement of the jurisdiction of certain police-stations in—, 3.

Damodar Canal Project, 144

Das, Babu Bhishmadev

Faridpur-Bhanga-Madaripur Railway Project, 133.
Subordinate Executive Service, 378.

Das, Mr. C. R.

Statement of—as to the legality of the judgment delivered on his case, 410.

Das, Mr. S. R.

Demands for grants, 177, 225, 293.

Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra

Demands for grants, 168.

De, Babu Fanindralal

Demands for grants, 26, 27, 28, 32, 37, 48, 49, 79, 85, 86, 87, 99, 100, 170, 171, 186, 238.
*Increase in expenditure due to the revision of overseas allowances, 130.

Deare, Major-General S. H.

Demands for grants, 247.
Department of Education and attached offices, 411.

Deputy-President

Age-limit for Matriculation Examination, 377.
Appointment of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler as Governor of Bihar and Orissa, 317
Charka and hand-spinning, 436
Demands for grants, 5, 6, 8, 11, 14, 150, 153, 156, 158 159, 163, 171, 178, 179, 181, 189, 191, 208, 224, 225 230, 249, 250, 287, 302, 337, 353
Establishment of telegraph offices, 365.
Middle class unemployment, 403
Price of quinine, 427.
Subordinate Executive Service, 380.
Summary Divisions 45, 146.
Welcome to His Excellency the Earl of Lytton and Her Excellency Lady Lytton, 308, 310

Division Lists

Demands for grants, 25, 47, 57, 69, 98, 109, 158, 164, 183, 337.

Does, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal

Demands for grants, 228, 246.
Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 315.

Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder

Demands for grants, 218, 335.

Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan

Age-limit for the Matriculation Examination, 369, 377, 378.
Demands for grants, 27, 28, 33, 35, 38, 80 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 100, 104, 105, 106. 114, 115, 160, 164, 165, 171, 172, 185, 186, 188, 234, 240, 244, 253, 268, 270, 276, 292.
Establishment of telegraph offices, 365, 366.

Dutta, Babu Annada Charan

Acquisition of land for the proposed Mymensingh Medical School, 133
Demands for grants, 97, 201, 202, 261.
Mufassal jurors, 415.

Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan

Demands for grants, 32, 39, 40, 71, 86, 184, 188, 249, 335.
Statement of Mr. C. R. Das as to the legality of the judgment delivered in his case, 410.

Duval, Mr. H. P.

Demands for grants, 102.
Mufassal jurors, 415.

Educational Institutions for the depressed classes, 418.

Embankments

Schedule D, 143.

Executive Service

Provincial and Subordinate—, 378

Expenditure

Increase in—due to the revision of overseas allowances 130

Faridpur

Whipping in—Jail, 130.

Faridpur-Bhanga-Madaripur Railway Project, 133.

Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder

Agelimit for Matriculation Examination, 370.
Appointment as Special Constables, 436.
Charka and hand-spinning, 434.
Demands for grants, 18, 19, 64, 78, 96, 116, 122, 161, 179, 189, 208, 210, 211, 216, 233, 241, 242, 259, 266, 279, 305, 348, 349, 352, 353, 370.
Middle class unemployment, 396.
Provincial and Subordinate Executive Service, 378, 380.
Revision of salaries of Government officers, 424.
Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 312.

Goode, Mr. S. W.

Demands for grants, 259.

Governor's Address, 441.

Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul

Demands for gants, 209, 210, 211, 225.

Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul

Charka and hand-spinning, 436.
Demands for grants, 17, 22, 32, 37, 73, 79, 82, 86, 88, 89, 92, 94, 107, 109, 110, 113, 127, 128, 167, 172, 184, 127, 330, 331, 332, 334, 335.
Educational Institutions for the depressed classes, 418.
Honorary Magistrates, 367.
Id-ul-fitr holidays 437, 441.
Introduction of *charka* and hand-spinning in institutions, 429.
Mufassal jurors, 417.
Sale of publications of Legislative Council proceedings, 423.
Selection of village Shilmori as the polling centre for election to local boards from Chandina thana in Tippera, 255.
Withdrawal of resolutions, 382.
Honorary Magistrates, 367.

Huq Maulvi Ekramul

Demands for grants, 229, 230.

Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur

Demands for grants, 160

"Id-ul-fitr," holidays, 437.

Improvement of water-supplies of municipalities and boards, 382.

Increase in expenditure due to the revision of overseas allowances, 130.

Increase of revenue in Bengal, 420.

Industries

List of indigenous—carried on in Bengal, 3.

Industries Department, 138, 362.

Pay and functions of certain officers of the—, 135.

Jail Depôt in Free School Street, Calcutta, 134.

Jail(s)

Muhammadan—warders, 254.
Separate kitchens for Hindu and Muhammadan prisoners in—, 2.

Jamuna Bund, 138.

Jessore

Survey of malarious tract in—, 410.

Karim, Maulvi Abdul

Department of Education and attached offices, 411.

Karim, Maulvi Fazlal

Rearrangement of the jurisdiction of certain police-stations in Dacca, 3.
Urinal for female passengers at Barisal steamer station, 407.
Wire-netting of upper deck in the passenger steamers of the Joint Steamer Companies, 196.

Karmakar, Bharat Chandra

Prosecution of—for alleged commission of nuisances in "Jugipukur" tank in village Patharghata in Baraset, 199

Kerr, the Hon'ble Sir John

Certificates under section 72D (2) of the Government of India Act, 411, 412.
Constitution of a Conciliation Board in connection with the strike of workmen, 4
Demands for grants, 5, 14, 191, 192, 320, 321, 323, 325, 345, 346, 347, 348, 350, 359
Establishment of telegraph offices, 365
Id-ul-fitr holidays, 440, 441.
Increase in expenditure due to the revision of overseas allowances, 130
Increase of revenue in Bengal, 422
Machines indented for in the Bengal Secretariat Press, 255
Private printing work in the Bengal Secretariat Press, 317
Reorganisation of the Bengal Secretariat Press, 141
Revision of overseas allowances, 135.
Revision of salaries, 424
Unemployment of the poorer classes, 1
Urinal for female passengers at Barisal steamer station, 408
Wire-netting of upper deck in the passenger steamers of the Joint Steamer Companies, 196

Khaitan, Babu Devi Prosad

Demands for grants, 304.
Middle class unemployment, 395, 403

Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din

Demands for grants, 115, 322,

Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman

Demands for grants, 212.

Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali

Jail Depôt in Free School Street, Calcutta, 134.

Khulna

Inquiry into the repeated failure of crops in—, 198.

Kitchens

Separate—for Hindu and Muhammadan prisoners in jails, 2.

Langford James, Mr. R. H. L.

Demands for grants, 247.
Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 309, 310

Larmour, Mr. F. A.

Demands for grants, 225, 239, 349.

Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble

Alaipur Khal, 139
Charka and hand-spinning, 436
Damodar Canal Project, 145.
Demands for grants, 5, 6, 7, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 178, 328, 330, 350, 352
Disputes as to the boundary of the reserved forest portion of the Khulna Sundarbans, 4.
Excavation of Tolly's Nalla, 134.
Inquiry into the repeated failure of crops in Khulna, 199.
Jamuna Bund, 138.
Price of quinine, 427.
Schedule D Embankments, 144
Service of revenue processes, 364.
Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 309

Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath

Appellate Side Paper Book Department, 318
Appointment as Special Constables, 437.
Charka and hand-spinning, 434, 436.
Demands for grants, 11, 19, 44, 47, 55, 62, 68, 70, 78, 81, 89, 95, 98, 102, 108, 114, 115, 120, 152, 153, 160, 163, 167, 168, 177, 178, 187, 188, 192, 212, 219, 225, 226, 236, 245, 249, 257, 284, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 335.
Industries Department, 362.
Middle class unemployment, 397, 400.
Sericulture Department, 141.

Matriculation Examination

Age-limit for the—, 369.

Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra

Demands for grants, 101, 168, 189, 296, 304, 328.
Improvement of water-supplies, 382, 386.
Middle class unemployment, 399.

Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.

Age-limit for Matriculation Examination, 375, 377.
Charka and hand-spinning, 435.
Demands for grants, 193, 202, 208, 214, 222, 223, 232, 242.
Department of Education and attached offices, 411.
Educational Institutions for the depressed classes, 419.
Effect of non-co-operation on Secondary Schools, 140.
Mr. Biss's Scheme of Primary Education, 145.
Primary Schools, 139.
"Society in Evolution," 144.
Teachers of recognised Secondary Schools, 140.

Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath

Age-limit for Matriculation Examination, 370, 377.
Arrests and convictions under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, 196.
Demands for grants, 208, 215.
Mufassal jurors, 413.

Muhammadan Assistant Jailors, 132.

Muhammadan Prisoners

Facilities to— to observe their religious rites, 361.

Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra

Demands for grants, 189.

Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon

Demands for grants, 181, 182, 209, 211, 275, 284, 285.

Mukherji, Professor S. C.

Age-limit for Matriculation Examination 375.
Demands for grants, 8, 84, 88, 91, 159, 191, 224, 225, 226, 335, 336.
Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 314.

Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary

Demands for grants, 50, 66.
Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 309, 316.

Municipalities

Filtered water-supply to the riparian—, 409.

Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra

Demands for grants, 18, 111, 128, 332, 335.
Excavation of Tolly's Nalla, 134.
Prosecution of Bharat Chandra Karmakar for alleged commission of nuisances in "Jugipukur" tank in village Patharghata in Baraset, 199.
Schedule D Embankments, 143.
Service of processes from Civil and Revenue Courts, 319.
Service of revenue processes, 364.
"Society in Evolution," 144.

Non-co-operation

Effect of—on recognised Secondary Schools, 139.

Number of Muhammadan Assistants in the office of the Inspector-General of Prisons, 3.

Pahlowan, Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Jubbar

Appointments for Muhammadans, 428.
Honorary Magistrates, 367.
Increase of revenue in Bengal 420, 423.
Middle class unemployment, 401.
Price of quinine, 426, 427
Revision of salaries, 424, 426.
Sheds for witnesses in courts, 412, 413.
Withdrawal of resolutions, 378.

Pal, Rai Bahadur Radha Charan

Demands for grants, 46, 47, 49, 111, 113, 116, 119, 124, 128, 129, 150, 154, 156, 159, 163, 166, 174, 180, 192, 221, 222, 223, 233, 245, 246, 257, 262, 276, 277, 285, 298, 303, 307, 322, 333.
Middle class unemployment, 403, 404.
Subordinate Executive Service, 380, 381.
Unemployment of the educated middle class in Bengal, 387.
Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 310.

Paper Book Department.

Appellate Side, 318.

Pay and functions of certain officers of the Industries Department, 135.

Political offenders

Sentences of imprisonment on—, 194.

"Post-mortem" examination of Muhammadan prisoners, 2.

Primary Education

Mr Biss's scheme of—, 145

Primary schools, 138.

Processes

Service of— from civil and revenue courts, 319.

Service of revenue—, 364.

Prostitutes

Clearing a street of—, 132

Pugh, Colonel A. J.

Demands for grants, 297

Quinine

Price of—, 426.

Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-

Appellate Side Paper Book Department, 319.

Appointment of Muhammadan officer in the Manufacturing Department of the Central Jail, 2.

Demands for grants, 332

Facilities to Muhammadan prisoners to observe their religious rites, 361.

Jail Depôt in Free School Street, Calcutta, 134.

Mufassal jurors, 416, 417.

Muhammadan Assistant Jailors, 132.

Muhammadan Jail Warders, 254.

Number of Muhammadan Assistants in the office of the Inspector-General of Prisons, 3.

Post-mortem examination of Muhammadan prisoners, 2.

Revision of emoluments of Alipore Jail Press employees, 132.

Sentences of imprisonment on political offenders, 194.

Separate kitchens for Hindu and Muhammadan prisoners in jails, 2.

Service of processes from civil and revenue courts, 320.

Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-

Sheds for witnesses in Courts, 412

Statement of Mr. C. R. Das as to the legality of the judgment delivered in his case, 411.

Subordinate Executive Service, 381.

Whipping in Faridpur Jail, 131

Railway

Faridpur-Bhanga-Madaripur— Project, 133

Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar

Demands for grants, 52, 53, 54, 60, 68, 71, 159, 175, 181, 182, 184, 185, 189, 209, 210, 352, 353, 359.

Sentences of imprisonment on political offenders, 194.

Summary Divisions, 146.

Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 312

Whipping in Faridpur Jail, 130

Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal

Demands for grants, 10, 11, 16, 22, 35, 48, 49, 63, 90, 92, 103, 113, 234, 252, 294, 296.

Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Brojendra Kishor

Revision of overseas allowances, 135.

Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra

Constitution of a Conciliation Board in connection with the strike of workmen, 4

Demands for grants, 282, 298

Middle class unemployment, 394

Reserved posts for Muhammadans, 428.

Resolution

Withdrawal of—, 427.

Revision of emoluments of Alipore Jail Press employees, 132.

Revision of salaries of Government officers, 424.

Roy, Babu Nalini Nath

Anti-malarial operations, 135, 406.

Demands for grants, 23, 59, 64, 70, 245, 249, 271.

Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh

Damodar Canal Project, 144.
Demands for grants, 49, 117, 124, 189, 263, 277, 341, 345.

Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan

Charka and hand-spinning, 432.
Demands for grants, 15, 16, 49, 92, 103, 113, 234, 252, 350.
Establishment of telegraph offices, 365.
Middle class unemployment, 392.

Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh

Demands for grants, 265, 271, 301, 302, 306, 325, 341, 345.
Pay and functions of certain officers of the Industries Department, 135.
Unemployment of the poorer classes, 1.
Works of the Industries Department, 138.

Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailajà Nath

Alaipur Khal 139.
Disputes as to the boundary of the reserved forest portion of the Khulna Sunderbans, 4.
Effect of non-co-operation on Secondary Schools, 139.
Inquiry into the repeated failure of crops in Khulna, 198.
Jamuna Bund, 138.
Mr. Biss's scheme of Primary Education, 145.
Primary Schools, 138.
Teachers of recognised Secondary Schools, 140.

Sale of publications of Legislative Council, 423.

Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra

Honorary Magistrates, 368.

Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath

Demands for grants, 94, 96, 98, 207, 209, 210, 211, 215, 219.

Schools

Effect of non-co-operation on Secondary—, 139.
Primary—, 138.
Teachers of recognised Secondary—, 140.

Sentences of imprisonment on political offenders, 194.

Serampore Weaving School, 409.

Sericulture Department, 141.

Services

Retrospective effect given to the revision of certain higher—, 140.

Sheds for witnesses in courts, 412.

Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan

Demands for grants, 27, 37, 49, 186, 188.
Mufassal jurors, 413.
Withdrawal of resolutions, 381.

Sitakund Pilgrims

Realisation of tax on—, 195.

"Society in Evolution," 144.

Spry, Mr. H. E.

Demands for grants, 33, 151, 152, 353, 356.

Stark, Mr. H. A.

Demands for grants, 231.
Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 312.

Steamer Companies

Wire-netting of upper deck in the passenger steamers of the Joint—, 196.

Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.

Appointment as Special Constables, 437.
Demands for grants, 149, 156, 165, 170, 172, 187, 333.
Honorary Magistrates, 368.
Sale of publications of Legislative Council, 423
Subordinate Executive Service, 380

Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 314.

Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan

Demands for grants, 258.
Welcome to His Excellency Lord Lytton, 314.

Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed

Demands for grants, 159, 178, 180, 181.

Summary Divisions, 145.

Sunderbans

Disputes as to the boundary of the reserved forest portion of the Khulna—, 4.

Telegraph offices

Establishment of—, 365.

Tippera

Selection of village Shilmori as the polling centre for election to local board from Chandina thana in—, 255.

Tolly's Nala

Excavation of—, 134.

Travers, Mr. W. L.

Demands for grants, 275, 279.

Unemployment

Among the poorer classes, 1.
Of the educated middle class in Bengal, 387.

Walsh, Mr. C. P.

Demands for grants, 350.

Water-supply

Filtered—to the riparian municipalities, 409.
Welcome to His Excellency the Earl of Lytton and Her Excellency Lady Lytton, 308.

Wheeler, the Hon'ble Sir Henry

Appointment of—as Governor of Bihar and Orissa, 317.
Arrests and convictions under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, 197.
Clearing a street of prostitutes, 133.
Demands for grants, 9, 10, 146, 169, 163, 166, 167, 171, 172, 173, 175, 182, 183, 186, 188, 191.
Rearrangement of the jurisdiction of certain police-stations in Dacca, 4.
Retrospective effect given to the revision of certain higher services, 141.

Whipping in Faridpur Jail, 130.

Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

Demands for grants, 199, 201.

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